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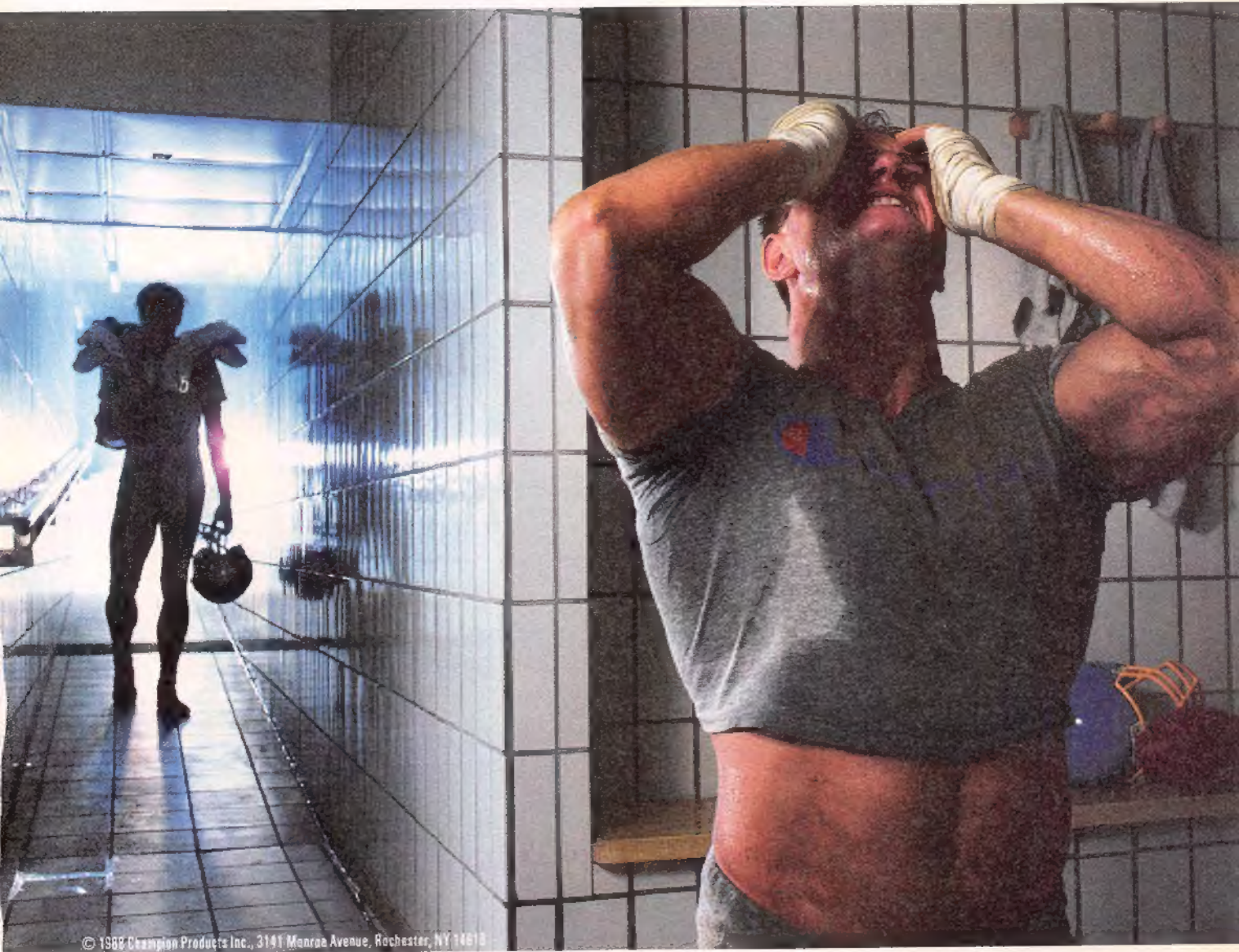
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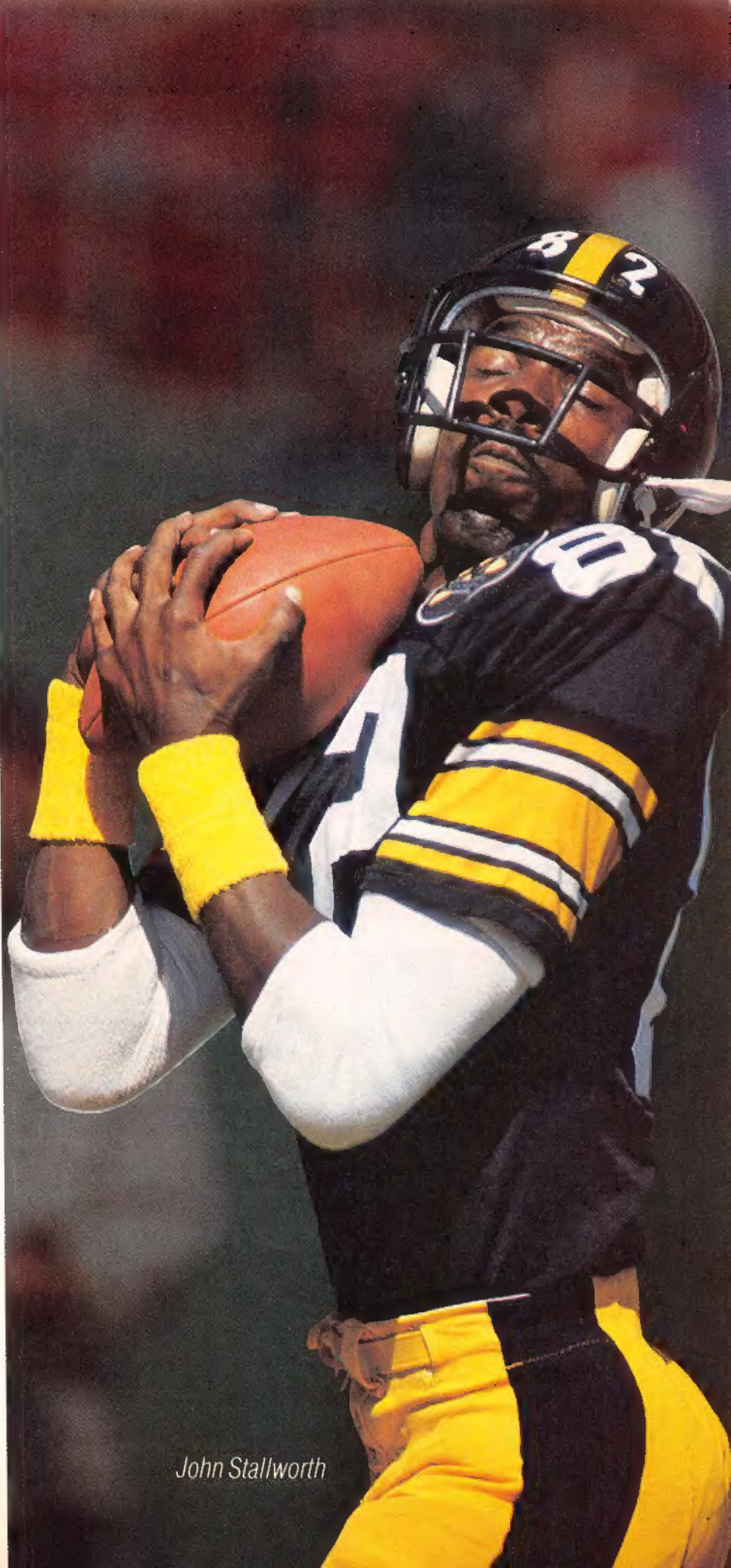
Pro Football

contents

- 4 LETTERS
- 6 BETWEEN THE LINES
- 9 THE YEAR IN REVIEW
by Frank Litsky, New York Times
- 14 JERRY RICE TAKES HIS RECORDS IN STRIDE
by Mark Soltan, San Francisco Examiner
- 16 FOOTBALL'S WIZARD OF OZ
by Tony Grossi, Cleveland Plain Dealer
- 20 TOP 20 HALL OF FAME CHARTS
- 24 1988 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE
- 26 LINEBACKERS ON IMPACT
by Larry Felser, Buffalo News
- 32 PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP
- 42 HALL OF FAME
- 47 DOUG WILLIAMS—TOUCH OF CLASS
by Tom Friend, Washington Post
- 50 NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
by Don Pierson, Chicago Tribune
- 52 NFC WEST
- 61 NFC EAST
- 72 NFC CENTRAL
- 86 TEAMS OF THE DECADE
by Don Pierson, Chicago Tribune
- 90 MOONSTRUCK IN HOUSTON
by Jim Carley, Houston Post
- 92 ANTHONY CARTER CATCHES UP
by Steve Aschburner, Minneapolis Star Tribune
- 96 AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
by Larry Felser, Buffalo News
- 98 AFC WEST
- 110 AFC CENTRAL
- 122 AFC EAST
- 136 CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE
by Rick Matsumoto, Toronto Star
- 144 1987 NFC FINAL STATISTICS
- 151 1987 AFC FINAL STATISTICS

July 1988 **26**th year

George Gajkovich



John Stallworth

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Letters

■ Bought Street & Smith's Baseball yesterday. Been getting Football since your first issue. Have a correction to offer (page 55 of 1988 Baseball): The 1917 New York Giants lost the World Series to the Chicago White Sox, four games to two. The magazine covers the game very well. Also appreciate the College World Series.

TOM WALSH Martinez, CA

■ Would you be kind enough to send me a copy of the opening-day rosters of all 26 major-league teams? Please make sure uniform numbers and saves for relief pitchers are included.

SCOTT M. BLOMER Warminster, PA
That information is contained in our 1988 Baseball, which lists the rosters of every team.

■ Have been a purchaser of Street & Smith's productions for many years, particularly the College Football edition. To my amazement, I noted some errors in the schedules for Air Force, Arizona, and Southern California.

ROBERT M. GAGNON Salinas, CA
Street & Smith's takes pride in being accurate and comprehensive. Unfortunately, the schedules are tentative. They can and do change after we go to press to accommodate television.

■ I have been buying your Pro Football magazine for 10 years and I enjoy it very much. I am a big Minnesota Vikings' fan, and I have never been able to get hold of any Alan Page and/or Jim Marshall photos. I've tried writing the club, but they simply tell me they have too much mail and cannot answer my letter on a personal basis. They send me decals and current team photos. I would greatly appreciate it if you could send me any photos of Page/Marshall.

JOHN ROMITO JR. Burlington Township, NJ
Alan Page was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. We have a feature, as well as a color shot, of him and his new fellow members on page 42 of this issue.

■ I am writing in regard to New York Yankees' first baseman Don Mattingly. I would like to send him a letter to congratulate him for his past outstanding years and to find out more about his record-breaking 1987 season. Could you send me his address and a list of his latest achievements?

L. SIDDIQI Kingston, Ontario
Don Mattingly set the following major-league records in 1987: most home runs, seven consecutive games (9); most home runs, eight consecutive games (10); most grand slams, one season (6). In addition, he homered in eight consecutive games to tie another major-league mark. He was selected to the American League all-star team for the fourth straight year and has led league first basemen in fielding since 1984. Write to Don Mattingly in care of the New York Yankees, Yankee Stadium, Bronx, NY 10451

■ I am an avid reader of your Pro Football, Baseball, and Basketball magazines. But as a hockey fan as well, I've got an appetite for the in-depth reporting your magazine can do. I realize hockey is looked down upon by the "big three" networks, but hockey and its professionals are just as exciting as the other sports. Nothing beats:

Wayne Gretzky/Jari Kurri two-on-one
any game with Mario Lemieux
Steve Yzerman breakaway
Grant Fuhr glove save
Darren Pang—any save

But hockey's darker side (any fight or stick-swinging) is no worse (or better) than seeing:

bench-clearing brawl
beanball
linebacker spearing any quarterback

So let's stop vilifying hockey and start looking at the great sport it is. The best way to do that would be for Street & Smith's first annual Hockey magazine to hit the stands for the 1988-89 season.

BILL DOYLE Long Beach, NY

■ I love college basketball. To me it is the greatest thing on earth. There are a number of things I want to say. First, I don't think automatic bids should go to tournament conference champions. I agree with the great college basketball analyst Dick Vitale: It hurt me to see Ohio State left out of the NCAA tournament and a team like Fairleigh Dickinson put in. Second, what a great move it was not to let teams play on their home courts during the tournament.

WILLIE FANNIN Live Oak, FL

■ I am a big fan of your Basketball magazine. It definitely is the best in the business, and I was so glad to find out that starting this year, you are going to have an exclusive Pro Basketball issue. Great! I have some ideas, being the true fan that I am, that you may want to consider:


1. all-time top 20 leaders in scoring, rebounding, and assists—just as you do in the Pro Football issue with all-time rushers, passers, receivers, and scorers
2. past-to-present all-NBA teams
3. previous year's all-star game roster, as well as the statistical leaders in all-star game history
4. listing of the award-winners (MVP, Rookie of the Year, Coach of the Year, Most Improved Player, all-Defensive and all-Rookie teams) past and present
5. NBA champions and first-round draftees

That's it. That's my idea of a complete Pro Basketball book. I can't name one magazine that can give a true fan all that information. But, then again, maybe I can—Street & Smith's.

IRVING ROBINSON Lompoc, CA

What you want is the Official NBA Guide. You want a record book. Street & Smith's Pro Basketball will have its share of statistics and records, but it will be more of a magazine, with previews, opinions, player profiles, and great photographs. Look for it in September.

Correspondence should be addressed to
The Editor, Street & Smith's
304 East 45 Street, New York, NY 10017

A man with grey hair, wearing a black and gold New Orleans Saints jacket, is shown from the waist up. He is holding a black football helmet with both hands. The jacket features the Saints logo on the left chest and an NFL patch on the right sleeve. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green field.

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WEAR WHAT THE PROS WEAR

BETWEEN THE LINES



For the first time in five years, Dan Marino does not appear on the cover of Street & Smith's Pro Football. It had become almost unthinkable to keep him off.

"I've been on a lot of magazine covers, but I didn't realize that about Street & Smith's," said Dan. "I remember Street & Smith's all the way back to when I was a little kid playing in Pittsburgh."

The kid stayed close to home and became an All-America at the University of Pittsburgh in 1981-82. The last of a record six quarterbacks chosen in the first round of the 1983 draft, Marino did not become a starter until midway through his rookie year with the Miami Dolphins. Once inserted in the lineup, though, he made a lasting impression. By season's end his passer rating was the highest in the American Conference and the Dolphins were atop the AFC East. In 1984, at the age of 23, Marino set single-season marks for completions (362), yardage (5,084), and touchdown passes (48) en route to the Super Bowl. Terry Bradshaw, who directed the Pittsburgh Steelers to four NFL titles, called Marino "the best quarterback I've ever seen."

In 1985, Marino's production dropped. He passed for "only" 4,137 yards and 30 TDs and the Dolphins were beaten by the New England Patriots in the AFC championship. Still, that was by far the best individual performance in the South and Miami was the region's premier team (Houston and New Orleans were 5-11, Atlanta 4-12, and Tampa Bay 2-14). After the 1986 season, when he broke his own record for completions and passed for 4,746 yards and 44 TDs, Marino had the highest quarterback rating in the history of pro football. Fran Tarkenton, a Hall of Famer, threw a record 342 TD passes in 18 years, an average of 19 per season. Marino is averaging 33 touchdown tosses after just five years.

But there appears to be a changing of the guard in the AFC East. Miami has not qualified for the playoffs since 1985. Indianapolis won the division during the strike-torn '87 season, with Buffalo on the rise and New England regrouping. Elsewhere, Houston was a wild-card team from the Central, as was New Orleans from the West (go figure that geography). Tampa Bay is looking toward the future with former No. 1 pick Vinny Testaverde; Atlanta, as the worst team in the league, selected Aundray Bruce with the top choice in this year's draft. Future cover subjects?

Testaverde graced the front of the 1986 Street & Smith's College Football.



Street & Smith's Pro Football

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AMERICA'S BEST.



by **FRANK LITSKY**

NEW YORK TIMES

A players' strike cast its shadow over a season marked by memorable performances by some of the game's brightest stars

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

● The 1987 National Football League season started on an upbeat with a new television contract that kept the dollars, though not quite as many, rolling in. It ended on an upbeat with the Washington Redskins' sensational 42-10 rout of the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXII. The game was a showcase for Doug Williams, who was named the MVP. The first black quarterback to play in the Super Bowl, he had found himself in the eye of a storm of reporters eager to record his every word.

Between one upbeat and the other, things were not so happy. The NFL's first in-season players' strike lasted 24 days and led to replacement players paying what was advertised as NFL football. Mike Hohnse, who had played in the United States Football League, was tending bar in Chicago when the strike began, and for three games, he, not Jim McMahon, was the quarterback for the Bears.

Mike Busch gave up his \$4-an-hour job stocking supermarket shelves in Brookings, S.D., to play quarterback for the New York Giants. Only a few of the 1,600 or so regular team members kept playing.

THE STRIKE

The strike occurred because the club owners represented by the NFL Management Council, and the players, represented by the NFL Players Association, could not get close to a collective-bargaining agreement. The previous five-year agreement expired August 31, two weeks before the season began. The players were insisting on a new contract that included free agency, the right to sign with another team after their contracts expired without that team being required to compensate their former team. The players had an average salary of \$230,000 and a median salary of \$140,000. Those numbers were well be-

low the ever that free agency had helped bring to baseball and basketball players.

The NFL club owners would not yield, and there was little agreement between them and the players on anything else. After two games of the 16-game season, the players struck. The owners canceled the following weekend's games and, unlike the situation during the players' 57-day strike prior to the 1982 season, promptly assembled replacement teams, most of them made up largely of players cut in training camp. Though the union objected, the owners insisted the games between replacement teams would count in the final standings. The teams also included such nonstriking players as defensive tackle Randy White of the Dallas Cowboys, defensive end Mark Gastineau of the New York Jets, and quarterback Marc Wilson of the Los Angeles Raiders. As the strike continued and negotia-

continued

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

tions broke off, more players drifted back among them such stars as quarterback Joe Montana of the San Francisco 49ers and linebacker Lawrence Taylor of the Giants.

With the players' solidarity eroding, the union unsuccessfully sought arbitration. On October 15, a Thursday, the union decided to save face with a Federal anti-trust suit against the league and have the players return to work immediately without a collective-bargaining agreement. The players returned to their teams that afternoon and were turned away at the door. The owners said the returning players could not play that weekend because the deadline for their return each week was Wednesday. So the players rejoined their teams the following week, but they also filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board. They said the owners had discriminated against them because teams were allowed to add nonroster players as late as Saturday each week. The NLRB upheld the players and ordered the owners to pay them wages and incentive bonuses for that lost weekend totaling \$21-25 million. The NFL has appealed that decision.

During the strike, attendance dropped 60 percent and television ratings 35 percent. Months later, a survey by the Los Angeles *Times* showed that the strike had cost the owners \$104 million, including ticket refunds and the players \$84 million. As a result, only seven of the NFL's 28 teams made a profit during the year. Because the strike product was inferior to the real thing and led many advertisers to cancel television commercials, the NFL agreed to refund \$60 million to CBS, NBC, and ABC. Most of that money was applied to future payments.

REGULAR SEASON

Except for the strike, it was generally a good season for owners, players, and fans. Non-strike attendance was high. In an era of declining television ratings, the nonstrike ratings held up, though the full-season ratings, including the replacement games, showed CBS down 9 percent, NBC 9 percent, and ABC 4 percent. ESPN, which televised games on cable on the last eight Sunday nights of the season, drew 32 percent more viewers than projected. Attendance was poor in St. Louis, where a losing team played in a small and aging Busch Stadium. After the season, the Cardinals moved to Phoenix, and while waiting for a domed facility to be built they settled down in Arizona State Sun Devil Stadium.

The regular season provided an exciting finish because the standings were so close. The three games during the strike helped make them that way. The replacement teams for the Redskins, the 49ers, and the San Diego Chargers were all 3-0, and the Redskins and the 49ers made the playoffs. The strike teams for the Giants, the Philadelphia Eagles, the Kansas City Chiefs, and the Minnesota Vikings were 0-3, and only the Vikings made the playoffs. Going into the final game of the season, five teams—the Indianapolis Colts, the

Houston Oilers, the Seattle Seahawks, the Miami Dolphins, and the New England Patriots—were in position to win an American Conference division title or a wild-card playoff berth or be eliminated. Of those five, the Colts (9-6) won one division—as did the Broncos (10-4-1) and the Cleveland Browns (10-5)—the Oilers (9-6) and the Seahawks (9-6) became wild-card teams, and the others failed to qualify for the playoffs. In the National Conference, the division winners were the 49ers (13-2), the Bears (11-4), and the Redskins (11-4) and the wild cards were the New Orleans Saints (12-3) and the Vikings (8-7).

There were eye-opening turnabouts in that playoff cast. In the first winning season in their 21-year history, the Saints improved from 7-9 the Colts from 3-13, and the Oilers from 5-11. The Saints had an aggressive front office (five United States Football League refugees became starters) and a bright coach in Jim Mora. They won their last nine regular-season games and made the playoffs for the first time ever. The Colts, the most generous team in the league in 1986, when they gave up 400 points, were the stingiest in 1987, allowing only 238 points.

THREE-WAY TRADE

The Colts also pulled off the trade of the year by getting 27-year-old Eric Dickerson of the Los Angeles Rams, the game's premier run-



Mitchell B. Reiser

ner. Last season was Dickerson's fifth in the NFL. He had led the league in rushing in three of his first four seasons, and he was unhappy with his \$682,000 salary. Meanwhile, the Colts had been unable to sign Cornelius Bennett, the Alabama linebacker they had picked as the second choice overall in the draft. On October 31, the Colts completed a complex three-way trade in which the Rams sent Dickerson to the Colts and the Colts sent the rights to Bennett to the Buffalo Bills. From the Colts and the Bills, the Rams ended up with three first-round draft choices and three second-rounders over the next two seasons plus running backs Greg Bell and Owen Gill.

The Colts gave Dickerson a new contract worth \$1 million a year for three years. The



All Sport: Carolyn Levy

ERIC DICKERSON

Rams, who had surrendered their highest draft choices to the Oilers a year earlier in a deal for quarterback Jim Everett, now have a chance to get help in the coming drafts. The Bills got a badly needed linebacker and their defense improved. Charles White, who had been Dickerson's backup with the Rams, became the league's leading rusher with 1,374 yards. Dickerson was second with 1,288.

There were disappointing teams, too, notably the Giants. In January 1987, they overwhelmed the Broncos, 39-20, in Super Bowl XXI. In September and October, they got off to an 0-5 start, the worst ever by a Super Bowl champion, and they finished at 6-9. Things went wrong from the start for the Giants. In training camp, Karl Nelson, their right offensive tackle, was found to be suffering from Hodgkin's disease, a form of cancer. Soon after, Chris Godfrey, the right guard, suffered a knee injury that wiped out half his season, and when he returned he never regained his ability. Those injuries to two excellent blockers reduced Joe Morris's effectiveness as a runner. As a result, the Giants tried to diversify their offense by replacing Maurice Carthon, a superb blocking fullback, with George Adams, a better receiver. That diminished the running game even more, and the Giants, despite good talent, never found their groove.

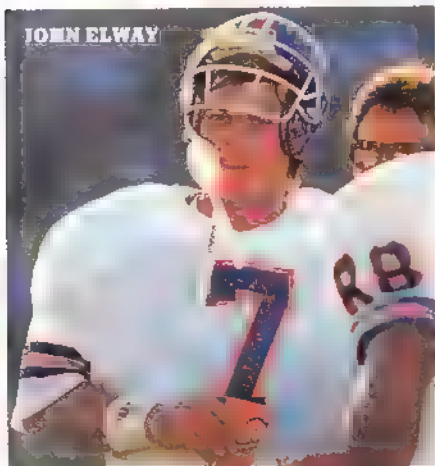
PLAYOFFS

The playoffs started with the two wild-card games, and the underdogs won both. The Vikings destroyed the Saints, 44-10, as Wade Wilson replaced Tommy Kramer at quarterback after two series and passed for two touchdowns and set up two more. The Oilers

eliminated the Seahawks, 23-20, on Tony Zendejas' 42-yard field goal after 8:05 of the overtime period.

In the first round of the conference playoffs, the Vikings, who had just upset the team with the second-best record in the league, upset the team with the best record. The 49ers had led the league in offense (459 points) and defense (253 points) and had not yielded a touchdown in the last 13 quarters of the regular season. But the Vikings beat them, 36-24. Anthony Carter, who had caught few passes during the regular season, caught seven against the Saints and 10 for 227 yards against the 49ers. In the other first round games, The Redskins defeated the Bears, 21-17, on Darrell Green's 52-yard punt return. The Broncos routed the Oilers, 34-10, as John Elway passed for 259 yards and two touchdowns. The Browns beat the Colts 38-21 on an icy field as Bernie Kosar passed for three touchdowns.

The conference championship games were close. The Redskins got by the Vikings, 17-



10, by stopping them first on the 1-foot line and, with 52 seconds left, again near the goal line. The Broncos beat the Browns, 38-33, when Elway ignited a 75-yard touchdown drive with 5:14 left.

SUPER BOWL

That set up a Super Bowl match January 31, 1988, in San Diego between the Redskins and the Broncos. It was the third Super Bowl in six years for the Redskins, the second in two years for the Broncos.

The big question was whether the Redskins could stop Elway. No one seemed to wonder if the light but agile Broncos could stop Williams. In fact, some people wondered what Williams was doing as a Super Bowl starter. The 32-year-old Williams, once a starter in the NFL (Tampa Bay Bucs) and the USFL, began the season on the bench. Jay Schroeder, young, strong, and talented, was the Redskins' No. 1 quarterback, so Williams, before the season, asked coach Joe Gibbs to trade him. Gibbs said he would try, but only if another team would let Williams start. If another team could promise Williams only a job as a backup, said Gibbs, the Redskins wanted him.

continued



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

for that. Williams stayed, and he played during the season when Schroeder was injured or erratic. By the playoffs, the steadier Williams was No. 1.

The Broncos, considered by many the superior team, threatened to make the Super Bowl a rout. On their first play of the game, Elway passed to Ricky Nattiel for a 56-yard touchdown. Soon after, the Broncos led by 10-0, the Redskins' defense seemed confused, and Williams fell while backpedaling and twisted his left knee. He missed two plays, put on a knee brace, and returned to the game. Then in a span of 13 minutes and 3 seconds in the second quarter, the Redskins ran 18 plays and scored five touchdowns. Williams passed 80 yards to Ricky Sanders for one score and 37 yards to Gary Clark for another. Timmy Smith, an unheralded backup, ran 58 yards for the third touchdown. Williams passed 50 yards to Sanders for the fourth TD and 8 yards to Clint Didier for the fifth.

The Redskins kept overwhelming the Broncos' defense with a bread-and-butter counter play on which Smith ran consistently for big yardage behind two puling linemen. Smith, who normally filled in for George Rogers, played the entire game because Rogers had



Mitchell B. Reibel

an injured ankle. In all, Williams passed for 340 yards (18 of 29), Smith ran for 204, and Sanders gained 193 yards receiving, all Super Bowl records. The Redskins gained 602 yards, including 280 rushing. Williams was voted the game's Most Valuable Player.

"The thing I had to say to myself all week," said Williams, "was I didn't come here as a black quarterback. I came here to win it."

THE STARS

The Associated Press named wide receiver Jerry Rice of the 49ers as offensive player of the year, defensive end Reggie White of the Eagles as defensive player of the year, and Mora of the Saints as coach of the year.

Bryan Yabonsky



Rice set all-time records of 13 straight games with touchdown catches and 22 TD receptions in one season. Steve Largent of the Seahawks raised his career total to 752 catches, breaking Charlie Joiner's mark of 750. Walter Payton of the Bears retired after a 12-year career in which he rushed for 110 touchdowns, breaking Jim Brown's record of 106. Payton was not the only star to bow out. The '87 season was also the final one for quarterback Dan Fouts of the Chargers and wide receiver John Stallworth and safety Donnie Shell of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Two stars of the bright rookie crop were Bennett and Shane Conlan, both linebackers for the Bills. Others who made their mark as rookies included linebacker Brian Bosworth of the Seahawks and running backs Christian Okoye of the Chiefs, Albert Bentley of the Colts, Troy Stradford of the Dolphins, and Bo Jackson of the Raiders. Okoye ranked eighth in rushing (660 yards), Bentley ninth (631), and Stradford tenth (619) among AFC running backs, and all averaged more than four yards per carry.

In 1986, the Bucs had made Jackson the first choice overall in the draft, but he passed up football to play outfield for the Kansas City Royals. In 1987, while he hit with power and got 22 home runs, he finished with a .235 batting average and 158 strikeouts in 396 at-bats. When he failed to sign with the Bucs, he went back into the NFL draft in 1987, and the Raiders gambled and took him on the seventh round. During the baseball season, he said he wanted to play football after the season as a "hobby," a word that did not endear him to teammates and prospective teammates in either sport. The Raiders signed him for \$7.4 million over five years and agreed he could keep playing baseball. After the baseball season, he joined the Raiders and carried 81 times for 554 yards, including a spectacular 91-yard touchdown run. He said he would continue to play both sports.

The most efficient passers were Montana of the 49ers (102.1 rating points), Kosar of the Browns (95.4), Phil Simms of the Giants (90.0), Dan Marino of the Dolphins (89.2), Neil Lomax of the Cardinals (88.5), and Dave Krieg of the Seahawks (87.6). The ratings were based on the league's complex formula that incorporated percentage of completions, percentage of touchdowns, percentage of interceptions, and average yards per attempt.



AP/Wide World

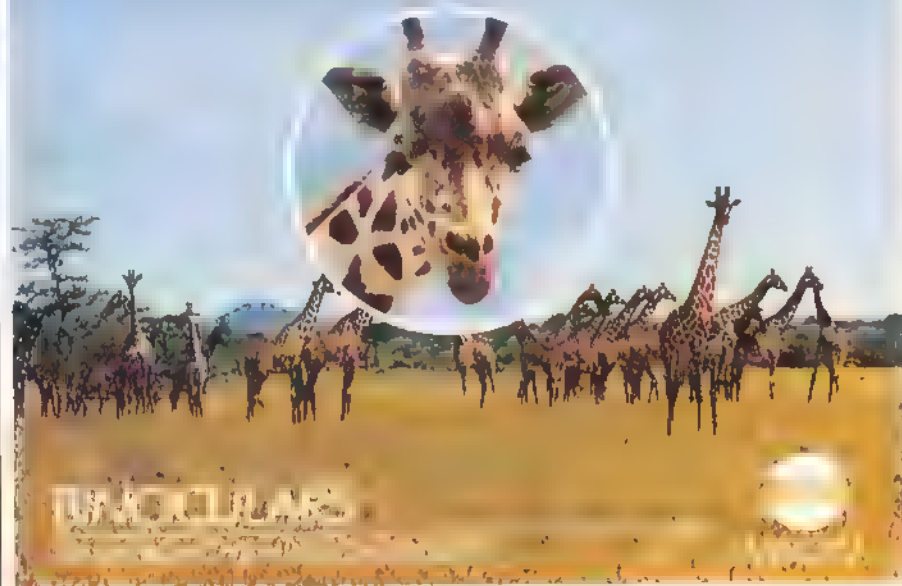


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The leaders in touchdown passes were Montana (31) and Marino (26). When Montana was hurt late in the season, Steve Young filled in and made himself a running as well as a passing threat.

Among receivers, the leaders were J.T. Smith of the Cardinals (91) and Al Toon of the Jets (68) in receptions and Smith (1,117) and Rice of the 49ers (1,078) in yardage. Barry Wilburn of the Redskins led in interceptions, with 9, including one for a 100-yard touchdown. The sack leaders were White of the Eagles (21) and Richard Dent of the Bears and Andre Tippett of the Patriots (12½).

INDOOR

Arena football, with teams in Chicago, Denver, Pittsburgh, and Washington, made its debut with a scaled-down game in hockey and basketball arenas. It was almost pinball football, a passing game that produced huge scores. The public seemed to love it because the average attendance was 11,272 and the league said it made money. On the first weekend, the scores were 52-44 (in overtime) and 48-46. In one game, Denver beat Washington, 73-57, on 10 touchdown passes by Whit Taylor. A week before, Taylor had been selling lumber.



JERRY RICE TAKES HIS RECORDS IN STRIDE

by **MARK SOLTAU**

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

● How good is Jerry Rice? The license plates on his Jaguar read "World," and he lives up to that college nickname. The record-setting San Francisco 49er wide receiver turned the National Football League into his own private playground last year. In only his third season, the slender 6-foot-2, 200-pounder established NFL records by catching 22 touchdown passes and at least one TD in 13

consecutive games. And that despite missing three games because of the NFL players strike. All told, Rice caught 65 passes for 1,078 yards, led the league in scoring, and helped his team win the NFC West.

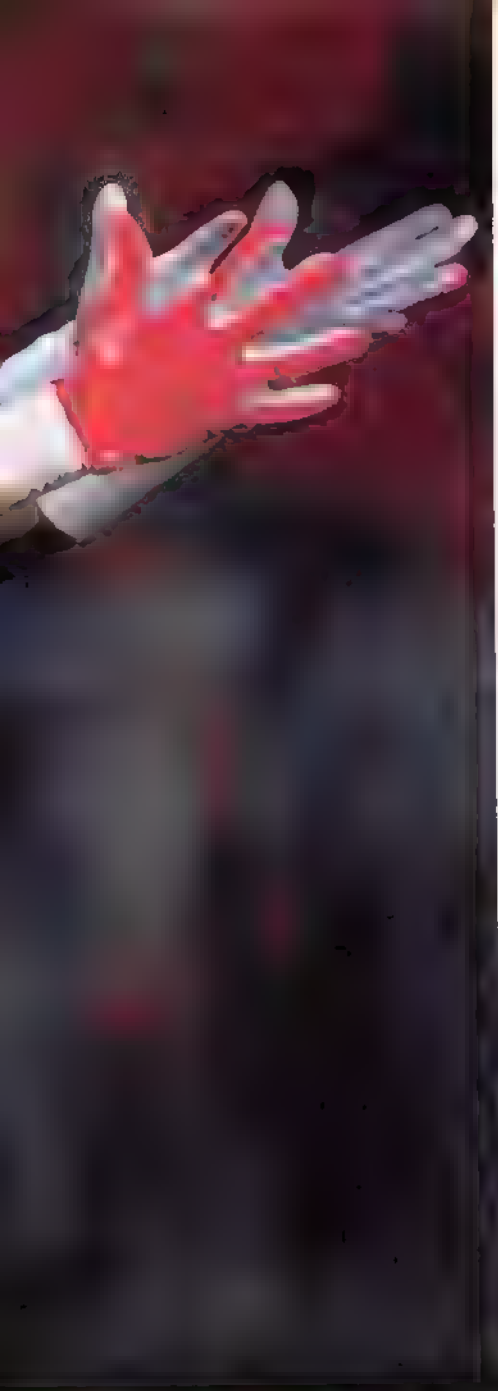
"He may be the single most dominating player in the game today," said San Francisco coach Bill Walsh.

Rice was a unanimous all-pro selection and a starter for the NFC Pro Bowl squad. He was voted the Len Eshmont Award by his 49er

teammates for inspirational and courageous play. His postseason honors also included

- Bert Bell MVP Trophy
- Offensive Player of the Year by the Associated Press
- NFL Player of the Year by the Touchdown Club of Washington
- Jim Thorpe Memorial Trophy by the Newspaper Enterprise Association
- NFL MVP by the Pro Football Writers Association

After just three years, the 49ers' receiver is the best in the business.



Mickey Pflieger

● Player of the Year by *Sports Illustrated*, *Pro Football Weekly*, *Sporting News*, and *Football Digest*

"Jerry is the best in the business," said 49er all-pro free safety Ronnie Lott. "I've been to the Pro Bowl since '82. I've seen [John] Stallworth play, I've seen [Lynn] Swann play, I've seen them all play [and] Jerry is the best. It's not even close."

The low-key Rice takes it all in stride. Without football, he could be laying bricks for a living—a trade his father taught him as a youngster in Crawford, Mississippi. "I love the game of football," said Rice, 25. "I'm still a little kid. That gives me the drive to be successful. It's really like a dream come true."

San Francisco's first-round pick in the 1985 draft and the 16th player chosen overall, Rice attended tiny Mississippi Valley State, a school with an enrollment of just 2,000. Play-

ing in relative obscurity, Rice exceeded 1,000 receiving yards three straight seasons, had more than 100 receptions each of his last two years, and scored 28 touchdowns as a senior earning Division I-AA All-America honors. No wonder the 49ers traded up to draft him. The first time veteran San Francisco receiver Dwight Clark saw him, he gasped, "He's going to be a star. He's a natural."

It just looks that way.

"I've never seen Jerry run a half-speed pattern," said 49ers' receivers coach Denny Green. "There's never a pass he considers routine. When the ball is in the air, he thinks it's his." It usually is.

"Jerry wants to be the best," said 49er cornerback Tim McKyer. "He works very hard, plus he has all the skills necessary. Put it all together and it spells awesome."

Rice's success is no fluke.

"Jerry's never going to take it easy," said Green. "I think that's why he's truly developed as a receiver. He has an opinion—and it's correct—the harder he works, the better he'll be." Green should know, having tutored James Lofton of the Raiders, Al Toon of the Jets, and Curtis Duncan of the Oilers. Rice is something special. "He's the best I've ever coached," admitted Green.

In 1985, Rice was named NFC Rookie of the Year by UPI after catching 53 passes for 972 yards and three TDs. Still, he dropped a dozen balls and was inconsistent, prompting some critics to suggest he was overrated.

"I couldn't understand," Rice said. "I'd never done that before, and I really got down on myself. I wore gloves for a while, thinking they would help. But I realized it wasn't my hands that were the problem, it was my confidence."

Rice was reassured by Walsh, Clark, and veteran Freddie Solomon, the man he was groomed to replace. After a rigorous off-season conditioning program, Rice exploded in 1986, breaking three team records and tying three others. He wound up with 86 receptions for 1,570 yards and 15 TDs. He made the Pro Bowl and was selected NFL Player of the Year by *Sports Illustrated*. "I watch myself on game films and I think, 'Hey, that's not me, that's not real,'" Rice said.

How does he do it?

"Jerry is the fastest human when the ball is in the air," said 49er quarterback Steve Young. "All you have to do is lay it out there and let him run under it." Which totally befuddles opposing backs. When he feels the need, Rice has the uncanny ability to shift into a higher gear, leaving defenders behind.

"People underestimate my speed," Rice said. "They don't think I can go by defensive backs. But I've run a 4.4 on a track. If I get side by side with a defender and Joe [Montana] puts the ball up, I'm confident I can get the separation and make the catch."

What makes Rice, the Ozzie Smith of pro football, special? He's tough, has huge hands, isn't afraid to block, and seemingly always comes up with the big play. He made three TD catches in a game four times last season, and produced a game-winner against Cincinnati on the final play of the game. "I don't think there's anyone in the NFL

who goes to the ball like Jerry," said Green.

"Every week Jerry Rice has to deal with teams doubling him, and that's the mark of a great receiver," said New Orleans Saints' free safety Brett Maxie. "He gets double coverage, triple coverage—whatever. When the ball goes in the air, he just accelerates to it, and there's nobody better in the game doing that than Rice."

Much of the credit belongs to Montana, who always seems to find him. "He just gets so open," Montana explained. "He has the knack of knowing when to break, when to use his speed." In Montana, Rice has a two-time Super Bowl MVP and a future Hall of Famer. "We have good chemistry," Rice admitted. "I know where his passes are going to be, so I just have to make sure I get to the right spot at the right time." In 1987, Montana and Rice destroyed opposing defenses with audibles. Sometimes Rice got so excited at the line of scrimmage, he broke up. "Once Joe starts to audible, I just smile," said Rice. "because know there will be one-on-one coverage and I'll be open."

Rice has plenty to grin about off the field, too. Last September, he married his college sweetheart. They have a 10-month-old daughter, Jaqui. "I'll be lying there dead asleep and Jerry will hear the baby before I do," said Jackie. "He's the one to get up and take care of her, and he has to be at work at 8 o'clock."

While Rice usually draws crowds on the field, he avoids them off it. He lives quietly in a condominium at Redwood Shores, a suburb 20 miles south of San Francisco. Plans are in the works to build a new home and relocate his family from Mississippi.

"The recognition is not going to change me," confessed Rice, who has slowly begun to overcome his shyness. "I'm a quiet person and I still like my privacy. I've only gone to San Francisco a couple of times, because I don't like the traffic."

Rice is a stylish dresser and has taken constant ribbing from teammates for a funky hairdo, now the rage of Mississippi. Said offensive lineman Randy Cross, "If you got Whiffle balls and a club, it would make a helluva tee." Rice's clothes are right out of *Gentlemen's Quarterly*. "He spends more time in front of the mirror than I do," Jackie said. Rice has no plans to change his look and doesn't even mind his nicknames: Bert, Fifi, and 6-7 (Bert is after the Sesame Street character, Fifi and 6-7 refer to his haircut—the latter means his height topped by five inches of hair). Things are going that well.

Walsh upgraded Rice's original five-year \$1.8 million contract. It seemed only right. In just three years, Rice has already caught 200 passes for over 3,500 yards (17.9 average) and 40 touchdowns. What's more, he thinks the best is yet to come. "After the kind of year I had in '86, I could have stopped and said, 'This is it, I don't need to do anything else.' But I'm trying to get better every year."

"Sure he will be better," agreed Walsh. "It may be that his statistics won't improve, but yes, he will be better."

Jerry Rice takes the acclaim as he does the records—in stride.

FOOTBALL'S WIZARD OF OZ

**After 10 years with the
Cleveland Browns, Ozzie
Newsome is the NFL's
most prolific tight end**

by TONY GROSSI

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER

His head was not lowered when he walked off the field. When the final gun sounded on the Cleveland Browns' 1987 season, Ozzie Newsome was looking up. For direction. His eyes stared at the scoreboard: Denver 38, Cleveland 33. Dusk had fallen on Mile High Stadium, eerily reflecting the twilight of Newsome's spectacular 10-year National Football League career. Newsome might some day be enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, but as he stood on the field that January day, his career was unfulfilled. He had never played in a Super Bowl, and now it looked as though he never would.

"The feeling hit me square in the face," recalled Newsome, the most prolific tight end in NFL history. "When the game ended, I thought to myself, 'Is this it? Do I want to play another year?' At that point, I honestly didn't know."

Newsome knew only one thing. He hurt. As did his teammates, his coaches, his owner—even his city. The Browns had just lost the American Conference championship game in heartbreaking fashion for the second year in a row to the Denver Broncos. A stirring comeback had fallen short. As the Browns returned home, Newsome pondered retirement.

"The next day, each of us had a meeting with Marty [Schottenheimer, Browns head coach]," Newsome said. "He listed the records of Oakland and Dallas over 15 years. It showed both of those teams went to the championship game about three times in a row and lost, then eventually went to the Super Bowl more than once and won. Marty said in order to be an established, winning franchise, you have to go through periods like this and you have to keep getting there [playoffs]."

That might be fine for the young turks of the Browns—Bernie Kosar, Earnest Byner, Kevin Mack, Webster Slaughter, and others. Newsome did not have time on his side. He turned 32 in March, but his body felt more like 42. He had lumbered through the 1987 season without injury, but had trouble getting off the line of scrimmage and breaking free from linebackers and safeties. He even dropped a ball in one game, though he did not fumble a single time for the seventh straight year. His 34 receptions were the lowest total in his 10 years as a Brown.

continued



Paul Jasienski

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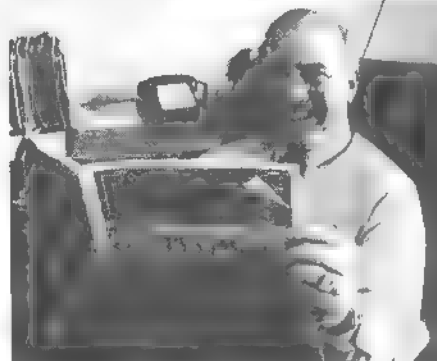
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WIZARD OF OZ

On Christmas morning, Newsome had awakened to a column written by Bill Livingston of the *Plain Dealer* that pleaded for Newsome to retire with the grace and class that had marked his entire career. The Wizard of Oz responded the next day by leading the Browns with six receptions in a victory at arch-rival Pittsburgh that clinched Cleveland's third straight Central Division title. Following his most gratifying afternoon of the season, Newsome graciously thanked Livingston for the fairness of his opinion. Privately, he seriously wondered if the writer was right, but he kept his thoughts to himself until the end-of-the-year meetings with his coaches.

"I went in to talk with [tight end coach] Charlie Davis," Newsome said. "I told him I hadn't made a decision yet. He said, 'You're still a great football player. You're not called upon to do the things you did here 4-5 years ago, when you were the only guy they had.' I needed to hear that. I needed some reinforcements about what I felt I could do. Sometimes you have to get some outside opinions."

Newsome still didn't know what to do. He turned to offensive coordinator Lindy Infante.

"He told me he made up his mind four weeks earlier [after reading Livingston's column]," said Newsome, "and that if I asked him to tell me he wanted me to come back because he felt I could play a role in this offense. He said, 'Maybe we could find somebody else to handle the physical part of it, but the other intangibles you bring to this team probably couldn't be replaced.'"

Even though they have made it to the AFC title game two years in a row, the Browns basically are a team of young players, especially on offense. Kosar, their unflappable field leader, will be 25 in late November. Byner and Mack will each be 26 when the new season starts. Slaughter will be 24 in October. The offense has been together for three years during which the young players have seen Newsome play hard in spite of injuries and a reduced role. They have also seen him deliver when called upon in big games. "There's no substitute for the experience he brings to this team," said Kosar.

As it was for many teams, the low point of the 1987 season for the Browns came during the 24-day players' strike when team unity slowly dissolved into an every-man-for-himself mentality and tempers flared. Only one Cleveland veteran, Carl Hairston, crossed the picket line in the first two weeks of the strike. On Wednesday of the third week, six more Browns' veterans retreated back to work. And then, one hour before the owners-imposed deadline, Newsome and backup quarterback Gary Danielson walked in. Many of their teammates were overcome by a feeling of betrayal. Four of them—cornerbacks Hanford Dixon and Frank Minnifield, safety Chris Rockins and linebacker Eddie Johnson—rushed to the media to voice their anger. Dixon and Minnifield called for the team to strip Newsome of his duties as offensive captain.

"You're seeing a changing of the guard today," Minnifield barked. "The guys who crossed today are not our leaders. We can't depend on them when we need them most."

The Cleveland community was shocked by the harsh words. "It was one of the saddest

things I've ever seen [in] football in 15 years," said Danielson.

Then, as now, Newsome shrugged off the comments as words of frustration. He said he still considered Dixon and Minnifield friends. "Some of the things I said were in the heat of emotion," Dixon admitted, months later. "I didn't mean them. I'm a big enough man to admit I was wrong. Ozzie knows I respect him and love him."

Newsome, with linebacker Clay Matthews, has been with the Browns longer than any player. He was drafted in the first round in 1978 after an All-America career as a wide receiver under Bear Bryant at Alabama. Bryant gave him the nickname "the Wizard of Oz" and called him "the best end I ever coached."

In Newsome's 10 years in Cleveland, the Browns have won four division championships. But only since the arrival of Kosar in 1985 have they knocked on the door to the Super Bowl. They did excite the fans in 1980 when quarterback Brian Sipe drove them to so many last-minute victories they were known as the "Kardiac Kids." Newsome had 51 catches that year, but is remembered most for being the intended receiver on a Sipe pass in the end zone that was intercepted by Oakland Raiders' safety Mike Davis with 13 seconds left in a playoff game. Oakland won 14-12, and went on to win Super Bowl XV.

Cleveland slumped to 5-11 the following year as Newsome began a string of five seasons in which he led the team in receptions. The Browns won 31 and lost 42 during that period, which saw Newsome lead all NFL receivers in catches. He caught a Browns' record 89 passes in 1983 and repeated it in 1984. He made three trips to the Pro Bowl and rewrote every Cleveland receiving record. The Browns went to the playoffs two of the years but did not win a postseason game.

Something different happened in 1986. Two things, really. One, Newsome experienced the frustration of injury for the first time in his professional career. He did not miss a game, but early-season injuries to his shoulder and ankle reduced his effectiveness. His 39 catches were the fewest since his rookie year. Two, the Browns won a franchise-record 12 regular-season games and their first playoff game in 17 years. Then they came within 36 seconds of advancing to their first Super Bowl. Denver beat them, 23-20 in overtime, in the AFC championship in Cleveland.

"The day after, I thought, 'Geez, we should have won that. We should be getting ready for the Super Bowl,'" Newsome recalled. "We blew it. It was a golden opportunity."

The injuries that Newsome could not shake were a message from his body. All that pounding had taken a toll. Time to round up the career goals and slip into the life hereafter. The individual honors and milestones continued in 1987. Newsome extended his streak to 127 regular-season games in which he caught a pass, one behind Harold Carmichael's 128 for the second-longest all-time streak behind Steve Largent's ongoing record of 152. He finished with 575 career catches—ninth all-time and first among tight ends.

All the personal achievements he accrued, however, could not match the joy and satisfaction he experienced while part of the Alabama state high school championship team. He came close last year. The Browns won 10 of 15 during the strike-shortened regular sea-

son (their replacement team was 2-1), then slaughtered the Indianapolis Colts at home, 38-21, in their first playoff game. Even though the AFC championship was at Denver's Mile High Stadium, the Browns believed they were on their way to the Super Bowl.

In a championship game that exceeded the previous season's in drama and excitement, Kosar led a frantic Cleveland rally in the second half to erase a 28-10 Denver lead. A Slaughter touchdown catch pulled the Browns even at 31, but Denver's John Elway responded for another score to go ahead, 38-31. The Browns were driving for the tying touchdown when Byner fumbled at the Denver 3-yard line with 65 seconds left. It ended with a Kosar desperation pass as Newsome's prayers again went unanswered.

"That was the most disappointing," Newsome said of his third brush with championship immortality. "With me, knowing you don't get that opportunity too many times, it was really discouraging. I thought, 'Was it meant for me to go to the Super Bowl?' That's the most deflated I've ever felt."

Newsome posed some new questions to himself. What if he retired and the Browns went on to the Super Bowl in 1988? Could he live with that? Or would he be at peace with himself by hanging on another year, possibly as a backup player, just to give his teammates one last chance to get him to the Super Bowl? He consulted with his closest friends, former teammates Paul Warfield, Calvin Hill and Reggie Rucker. Newsome asked them how they knew when it was time to retire. "They basically said, 'You know. Coaches don't know, but you know because you have certain standards for yourself. And when you know, that's when you bow out.'"

Newsome still wanted to talk with Art Modell, the owner of the Browns, before making his decision. Two of Newsome's contemporaries, Donnie Shell and John Stallworth of the Pittsburgh Steelers, had just announced their retirements. Newsome couldn't possibly help noticing the four Super Bowl rings worn by each. In their meeting, Modell said, "Ozzie, I want you to go out on top. You've never been a backup player here, and I'm not going to allow you to be a backup player here." Modell promised Newsome a place in the organization's front office would be waiting for him when he decided to retire.

Finally, Newsome made up his mind. He would dedicate the offseason to getting himself in the best possible physical condition. He would report to training camp and compete as fiercely as ever. And if he found his skills were below his own high standards, he would retire.

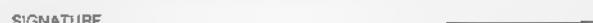
And what if the Browns should cross that final hurdle and go on without him to the Super Bowl? Newsome could live with that.

"What we did in the second half [against Denver], I think, exemplified our city—a city with character and the ability to come back," he said. "Cleveland has had a great resurgence over the past five years. A Super Bowl would put Cleveland back on the map. When I came here, Cleveland was the butt of a lot of jokes. Now people are proud to say they're from Cleveland. But I think a Super Bowl—a World Series...an NBA championship...would give this city an identity. On your way back, you need an identity."

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HALL OF FAME

LEADING PASSERS

MINIMUM 1500 ATTEMPTS

rank	player	yrs	att	comp.	yds	td	int	rating
1	DAN MARINO	5	2494	1512	19,422	168	80	94.1
2	JOE MONTANA	9	3276	2084	24,552	172	89	92.5
3	KEN O'BRIEN	5	1566	947	11,676	69	43	86.8
4	Otto Graham	10	2626	1464	23,584	174	135	86.6
5	DAVE KRIEG	8	2116	1224	15,808	130	88	84.5
6	Roger Staubach	11	2958	1685	22,700	153	109	83.4
7	Sonny Jurgensen	18	4262	2433	32,224	255	189	82.6
8	Len Dawson	12	2908	1732	21,685	154	129	82.6
9T	DANNY WHITE	7	2710	1562	19,376	116	79	82.0
9T	NEIL LOMAX	16	4475	2654	32,838	197	160	81.8
11	Ken Anderson	16	3149	1808	24,718	152	138	80.5
12	Bart Starr	18	6467	3686	47,003	342	266	80.4
13	Fran Tarkenton	15	5604	3297	43,040	254	242	80.2
14	DAN FOUTS	9	2316	1272	16,728	105	81	78.4
15	BILL KENNEY	10	2551	1430	18,190	124	101	78.2
16T	Bert Jones	18	5186	2830	40,239	290	253	78.2
16T	Johnny Unitas	13	2133	1090	16,042	149	111	77.6
18	Frank Ryan	12	3602	2044	25,206	160	138	77.4
19	Joe Theismann	14	3429	1926	25,092	192	172	77.1
20	Bob Griese							

LEADING RUSHERS

rank	player	yrs	att	yds	avg	td
1	WALTER PAYTON	13	3838	16,726	4.4	110
2	Jim Brown	9	2359	12,312	5.2	106
3	Franco Harris	13	2949	12,120	4.1	91
4	TONY DORSETT	11	2755	12,036	4.4	72
5	John Riggins	14	2916	11,352	3.9	104
6	O. J. Simpson	11	2404	11,236	4.7	61
7	Joe Perry	16	1929	9,723	5.0	71
8	Earl Campbell	8	2187	9,407	4.3	74
9	Jim Taylor	10	1941	8,597	4.4	83
10	ERIC DICKERSON	5	1778	8,256	4.6	61
11	O. J. ANDERSON	9	1884	8,086	4.3	47
12	Larry Csonka	11	1891	8,081	4.3	64
13	Mike Pruitt	11	1844	7,378	4.0	51
14	Leroy Kelly	10	1727	7,274	4.2	74
15	GEORGE ROGERS	7	1692	7,176	4.2	54
16	John Henry Johnson	13	1571	6,803	4.3	48
17	Walter Montgomery	9	1540	6,789	4.4	45
18	Chuck Muncie	9	1561	6,702	4.3	71
19	Mark van Eeghen	10	1652	6,651	4.0	37
20	Lawrence McCulcheon	10	1521	6,578	4.3	26

LEADING SCORERS

rank	player	yrs	td	pat	fg	pts
1	George Blanda	26	9	943	335	2002
2	Jan Stenerud	19	0	580	373	1699
3	Lou Groza	21	1	810	264	1608
4	Jim Turner	16	1	521	304	1439
5	Mark Moseley	16	0	482	300	1382
6	Jim Bakken	17	0	534	282	1380
7	Fred Cox	15	0	519	282	1380
8	Gino Cappelletti	11	42	350	176	1365
9	RAY WERSCHING	15	0	456	222	1130
10	Don Cockroft	13	0	432	216	1122
11	PAT LEAHY	14	0	424	218	1080
12	Garo Yepremian	12	0	444	210	1074
13	CHRIS BARR	11	0	424	218	1042
14	Bruce Gossett	15	2	374	219	1031
15	Sam Baker	10	0	428	179	977
16	Rafael Septien	13	1	420	180	960
17	Lou Michaels	12	0	386	187	955
18	Roy Gereia	10	46	351	184	903
19	Bobby Walston	10	0	344	60	881
20	Pete Gogolak				173	863

LEADING RECEIVERS

rank	player	yrs	no	yds	avg	td
1	STEVE LARGENT	12	752	12,041	16.0	95
2	Charlie Joiner	18	750	12,146	16.2	65
3	Charley Taylor	13	649	9110	14.0	79
4	Don Maynard	15	633	11,834	18.7	88
5	Raymond Berry	13	631	9275	14.7	68
6	Harold Carmichael	14	590	8985	15.2	79
7	Fred Biletnikoff	14	589	8974	15.2	76
8	Harold Jackson	16	579	10,372	17.9	76
9	OZZIE NEWSOME	10	575	7073	12.3	42
10	JAMES LOFTON	10	571	10,536	18.4	54
11	Lionel Taylor	10	567	7195	12.7	45
12	WES CHANDLER	10	555	8933	16.1	56
13	Lance Alworth	11	542	10,266	18.9	85
14	KELLEN WINSLOW	10	541	8741	12.5	45
15	JOHN STALLWORTH	14	537	8723	16.2	63
16	Bobby Mitchell	11	521	7954	15.3	65
17	Nat Moore	13	510	7546	14.8	74
18	DWIGHT CLARK	9	506	6750	13.3	48
19	ART MONK	8	504	7033	14.0	34
20	Billy Howton	12	503	8459	16.8	61

PASSES ATTEMPTED

rank	player	yds
1	Fran Tarkenton	6467
2	DAN FOUTS	5604
3	Johnny Unitas	5186
4	Jim Hart	5076
5	John Hadl	4687
6	Roman Gabriel	4498
7	John Brodie	4491
8	Ken Anderson	4475
9	Y. A. Tittle	4395
10	JOE FERGUSON	4375
11	Norm Snead	4353
12	Sonny Jurgensen	4262
13	Ron Jaworski	4042
14	George Blanda	4007
15	Terry Bradshaw	3901
16	Ken Stabler	3793
17	Craig Morton	3786
18	Joe Namath	3762
19	Len Dawson	3741
20	Jim Plunkett	3701

PASSES COMPLETED

rank	player	yds
1	Fran Tarkenton	3686
2	DAN FOUTS	3297
3	Johnny Unitas	2830
4	Ken Anderson	2654
5	Jim Hart	2593
6	John Brodie	2469
7	Sonny Jurgensen	2433
8	Y. A. Tittle	2427
9	Roman Gabriel	2366
10	John Hadl	2363
11	JOE FERGUSON	2292
12	Norm Snead	2276
13	Ken Stabler	2270
14	Ron Jaworski	2142
15	Len Dawson	2136
16	JOE MONTANA	2084
17	Craig Morton	2053
18	Joe Theismann	2044
19	Terry Bradshaw	2025
20	Archie Manning	2011

TOUCHDOWN PASSES

rank	player	yds
1	Fran Tarkenton	342
2	Johnny Unitas	290
3	Sonny Jurgensen	255
4	DAN FOUTS	254
5	John Hadl	244
6	Y. A. Tittle	242
7	Len Dawson	239
8	George Blanda	236
9	John Brodie	214
10	Terry Bradshaw	212
11	Jim Hart	209
12	Roman Gabriel	201
13	Ken Anderson	197
14T	Norm Snead	196
14T	Bobby Layne	196
16	Ken Stabler	196
17	Bob Griese	194
18	JOE FERGUSON	192
19	Sammy Baugh	186
20	Craig Morton	183

YARDS PASSING

rank	player	yds
1	Fran Tarkenton	47,003
2	DAN FOUTS	43,040
3	Johnny Unitas	40,239
4	John Hadl	34,665
5	Y. A. Tittle	33,513
6	Ken Anderson	33,070
7	Sonny Jurgensen	32,838
8	John Brodie	32,224
9	Norm Snead	31,548
10	Roman Gabriel	30,797
11	JOE FERGUSON	29,444
12	Len Dawson	28,895
13	Terry Bradshaw	28,711
14	Ken Stabler	27,989
15	Craig Morton	27,938
16	Ron Jaworski	27,908
17	Joe Namath	27,682
18	George Blanda	27,663
19	Bobby Layne	26,920
20		26,768

Please tell us about yourself...



From time to time we at STREET & SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL have questions we'd like to ask our readers. Today we need help from many of you—even those who don't often answer questionnaires. We won't take much of your time, and who knows, you may even win a compact disc player, a video cassette recorder or a stereo TV from Sony. Just fill in this brief questionnaire and mail the form as soon as possible. Thank you!

- 1 Which of these other STREET & SMITH'S SPORTS MAGAZINES do you read? (Please check as many as apply.)
Baseball ☐ 5-1 College Football ☐ -2 Basketball ☐ -3
- 2 How long have you been reading STREET & SMITH'S Pro Football?
New reader ☐ 6-1 2 Years ☐ 3 4 Years ☐ -5 6-9 Years ☐ -7
1 Year ☐ -2 3 Years ☐ -4 5 Years ☐ -6 10 Years or More ☐ -8
- 3 How much of this book would you say you have read?
All or Practically All ☐ 7-1 About 3/4 ☐ 2
About 1/2 ☐ -3 1/4 or less ☐ 4
- 4 In an average week during the season about how often do you refer to the Pro Football issue?
_____ times. 8-
- 5 Not including yourself, how many other friends or family members will read or look through your copy of STREET & SMITH'S Pro Football?
Number of Males _____ 9- Number of Females _____ 10-
- 6 a) Did you buy either of the following sports books last year?
Don Heinrich's Pro Preview Yes ☐ 11-1 No ☐ 2
Sporting News Pro Football Yearbook Yes ☐ 12-1 No ☐ 2
b) For each of the following publications listed below please indicate those that you read regularly or occasionally

	Read Regularly	Read Occasionally	Hardly Ever Read	Never Read
Inside Sports	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 13-
Sport	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 14-
Sports Illustrated	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 15-
The Sporting News	<input type="checkbox"/> -1	<input type="checkbox"/> -2	<input type="checkbox"/> -3	<input type="checkbox"/> 16-

- 7 In an average week what percentage of your television viewing time is spent watching college and professional sports events?
Less than 25% ☐ 17-1 25%—50% ☐ -2 50%—75% ☐ -3 75%—100% ☐ -4
- 8 Do you ever take a radio or television with you when attending sports events? Yes ☐ 18-1 No ☐ -2
- PASSENGER CARS
- 9 a) How many passenger cars, including station wagons, vans and 4 wheel drive cars are currently owned or leased by all the people in your household?
Number of Cars Owned _____ 19- None ☐ -0 20-21-22- 23-24-25- 26-27-28-

For each car currently owned, please indicate:	1st Car	2nd Car	3rd Car
b) Make (i.e., Oldsmobile, Mercury, BMW, Toyota)	_____	_____	_____
c) Model (i.e., Toronado, Cougar, Celica, 318)	_____	_____	_____
d) Year Model	_____ 29-30 _____ 31-33 _____ 35-36		
e) Indicate if car was bought new or used	New <input type="checkbox"/> 31-1 Used <input type="checkbox"/> 2	New <input type="checkbox"/> 34-1 Used <input type="checkbox"/> 2	New <input type="checkbox"/> 37-1 Used <input type="checkbox"/> 2

- 10 a) Do you or other members of your household plan to buy a car in the next 2 years? Yes ☐ 38-1 No ☐ 2
b) If yes, will it be a: Domestic Car ☐ 39-1 Imported Car ☐ -2 Not Sure ☐ 3
- CAR MAINTENANCE
11. a) Do you ever do your own car maintenance work? Yes ☐ 40-1 No ☐ -2
b) If so, which of the following do you do? (Please check as many as apply)
Replace Tires ☐ 41-1 Change Oil ☐ -3 Change Oil Filter ☐ -5
Replace Windshield Wipers ☐ -4 Change Air Filter ☐ 2 Tune-Ups ☐ 6

Please continue...



Please tell us a little more...

BEVERAGES

12. Please "X" those beverages that you personally drink (or serve) either at home or away from home. If you have mixed drinks, such as whiskey sours, check the type of liquor they contain.

Domestic Whiskies ☐ 42-1 Cordials/Liqueurs ☐ -5 Imported Beers ☐ -9
 Scotch/Canadian/Irish Whisky ☐ -2 Schnapps ☐ -6 Bottled Natural Spring or Mineral Water ☐ -0
 Vodka/Rum/Gin/Tequila ☐ 5 Wine/Champagne/Vermouth ☐ 7 Tonic Water/Club Soda, -x
 Brandy/Cognac ☐ -4 Domestic Beers ☐ -8 Ginger Ale, etc. ☐ -x

b. If you drink/serve beer, do you ever buy it by the case? Yes ☐ 43-1 No ☐ -2

c. In an average month, approximately how often do you entertain at home? _____ 44-

MEN'S TOILETRIES/GROOMING AIDS

13. Which of the following men's toiletries products or grooming aids do you use? (Please check as many as apply.)

Pre-shave Lotion ☐ 45-1 Disposable Shaver ☐ -5 Hair Grooming Products ☐ 5 Shaving Cream or Gel ☐ 7
 Cologne ☐ -2 After-shave Lotion ☐ -4 Blade Shaver ☐ -6 Electric Razor ☐ -8

SPORTS PARTICIPATION

14. Do you yourself actively participate in any sports activity? Yes ☐ 46-1 No ☐ -2

a) If so, which activities? _____ 47-49

b) In the past year have you purchased any running/athletic shoes? Yes ☐ 50-1 No ☐ -2

HOME ELECTRONICS

15. Do you or any member of your household own a video cassette recorder? Yes ☐ 51-1 No ☐ -2

a) If so, approximately how many blank and/or pre-recorded tapes have you purchased in the past year?

Blank Tapes _____ 53-54 Pre-recorded Tapes _____ 55-56

b) Do you tape televised sports events? Yes ☐ 57-1 No ☐ -2

c) Do you or any member of your household own:

A Compact Disc Player Yes ☐ 58-1 No ☐ -2
 A Camcorder Yes ☐ 59-1 No ☐ -2

CHARACTERISTICS

16. Are you: Male ☐ 60-1 Female ☐ -2

17. Your age: Under 18 ☐ 61-1 25-29 ☐ -3 35-39 ☐ 5 45-49 ☐ -7 55-59 ☐ -9 65 or over ☐ -x
 18-24 ☐ -2 30-34 ☐ -4 40-44 ☐ -6 50-54 ☐ -8 60-64 ☐ -0

18. What is your marital status? Single ☐ 62-1 Married ☐ 2 Widowed, Divorced, Separated ☐ 3

19. Are you: White ☐ 63-1 Black ☐ -2 Hispanic ☐ -3 Oriental ☐ -4 Other ☐ -5

20. Which of the following best describes your present employment status?

Employed Full-Time ☐ 64-1 Employed Part-Time ☐ -2 Not Employed ☐ -3

If employed full or part time a) What is your particular job called? _____ 65-

b) Does the job have a title? What is it? _____ 66-

c) Please indicate below the annual income you personally get from your job before taxes:

Less than \$10,000 ☐ 67-1 \$15,000-\$19,999 ☐ 3 \$25,000-\$34,999 ☐ -5 \$50,000 or More ☐ -7
 \$10,000-\$14,999 ☐ -2 \$20,000-\$24,999 ☐ -4 \$35,000-\$49,999 ☐ 6

21. What is the highest level you completed in school?

Some High School or Less ☐ 68-1 Attended College 1-3 Years ☐ 4

High School Graduate ☐ -2 College Graduate ☐ 5

Attended College Less Than 1 Year ☐ 3 Professional or Graduate School After 4 Years of College ☐ 6

22. What is the total combined annual income before taxes of all members of your household including yourself, that is, income from jobs as well as any other source?

Less than \$15,000 ☐ 69-1 \$20,000-\$24,999 ☐ -3 \$30,000-\$34,999 ☐ -5 \$40,000-\$49,999 ☐ 7 \$75,000 & Over ☐ -9
 \$15,000-\$19,999 ☐ -2 \$25,000-\$29,999 ☐ -4 \$35,000-\$39,999 ☐ 6 \$50,000-\$74,999 ☐ 8

70-

Thank you for your help.
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ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

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PRIZE PREFERENCE:

Compact Disc Player ☐

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Stereo TV ☐





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but few runners match his ability to pick up the "tough inside yardage." Several receivers are superior to J. T. Smith of St. Louis "in going deep for the bomb," but few equal his ability in catching medium and short passes.

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NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE 1988

Sunday, September 4

Atlanta at Detroit
Cleveland at Kansas City
Dallas at Pittsburgh
Houston at Indianapolis
L.A. Rams at Green Bay
Miami at Chicago
Minnesota at Buffalo
New York Jets at New England
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay
Phoenix at Cincinnati
San Diego at L.A. Raiders
San Francisco at New Orleans
Seattle at Denver

Monday, September 5

Washington at New York Giants (N)

Sunday, September 11

Chicago at Indianapolis
Cincinnati at Philadelphia
Detroit at L.A. Rams
Kansas City at Seattle
L.A. Raiders at Houston
Miami at Buffalo
New England at Minnesota
New Orleans at Cleveland
New York Jets at Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh at Washington
San Diego at Denver
San Francisco at New York Giants
Tampa Bay at Green Bay

Monday, September 12

Dallas at Phoenix (N)

Sunday, September 18

Atlanta at San Francisco
Buffalo at New England
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Denver at Kansas City
Green Bay at Miami
Houston at New York Jets
L.A. Rams at L.A. Raiders
Minnesota at Chicago
New Orleans at Detroit
New York Giants at Dallas
Philadelphia at Washington
Phoenix at Tampa Bay
Seattle at San Diego

Monday, September 19

Indianapolis at Cleveland (N)

Sunday, September 25

Atlanta at Dallas
Chicago at Green Bay
Cleveland at Cincinnati
L.A. Rams at New York Giants
Miami at Indianapolis
New England at Houston
New York Jets at Detroit
Philadelphia at Minnesota
Pittsburgh at Buffalo
San Diego at Kansas City
San Francisco at Seattle
Tampa Bay at New Orleans
Washington at Phoenix

Monday, September 26

L.A. Raiders at Denver (N)

Sunday, October 2

Buffalo at Chicago
Cincinnati at L.A. Raiders
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Denver at San Diego
Detroit at San Francisco
Green Bay at Tampa Bay
Houston at Philadelphia
Indianapolis at New England
Kansas City at New York Jets
Minnesota at Miami
New York Giants at Washington
Phoenix at L.A. Rams
Seattle at Atlanta

Monday, October 3

Dallas at New Orleans (N)

Sunday, October 9

Chicago at Detroit
Denver at San Francisco
Indianapolis at Buffalo
Kansas City at Houston
L.A. Rams at Atlanta
Miami at L.A. Raiders
New England vs. Green Bay (M/W)
New Orleans at San Diego
New York Jets at Cincinnati
Pittsburgh at Phoenix
Seattle at Cleveland
Tampa Bay at Minnesota
Washington at Dallas

Monday, October 10

New York Giants at Philadelphia (N)

Sunday, October 16

Atlanta at Denver
Cincinnati at New England
Dallas at Chicago
Detroit at New York Giants
Green Bay at Minnesota
Houston at Pittsburgh
L.A. Raiders at Kansas City
New Orleans at Seattle
Philadelphia at Washington
Phoenix at Washington
San Diego at Miami
San Francisco at L.A. Rams
Tampa Bay at Indianapolis

Monday, October 17

Buffalo at New York Jets (N)

Sunday, October 23

Cleveland at Phoenix
Dallas at Philadelphia
Denver at Pittsburgh
Detroit at Kansas City
Houston at Cincinnati
Indianapolis at San Diego
L.A. Raiders at New Orleans
Minnesota at Tampa Bay
New England at Buffalo
New York Giants at Atlanta
New York Jets at Miami
Seattle at L.A. Rams
Washington vs. Green Bay (M/W)

Monday, October 24

San Francisco at Chicago (N)

Sunday, October 30

Atlanta at Philadelphia
Chicago at New England
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Green Bay at Buffalo
Kansas City at L.A. Raiders
L.A. Rams at New Orleans
Miami at Tampa Bay
Minnesota at San Francisco
New York Giants at Detroit
Phoenix at Dallas
Pittsburgh at New York Jets
San Diego at Seattle
Washington at Houston (N)

Monday, October 31

Denver at Indianapolis (N)

Sunday, November 6

Buffalo at Seattle
Dallas at New York Giants
Detroit at Minnesota
Green Bay at Atlanta
Kansas City at Denver
L.A. Rams at Philadelphia
Miami at New England
New Orleans at Washington
New York Jets at Indianapolis
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
San Francisco at Phoenix
Tampa Bay at Chicago
L.A. Raiders at San Diego (N)

Monday, November 7

Cleveland at Houston (N)

Sunday, November 13

Chicago at Washington
Cincinnati at Kansas City
Cleveland at Denver
Houston at Seattle
Indianapolis at Green Bay
L.A. Raiders at San Francisco
New England at New York Jets
New Orleans at L.A. Rams
New York Giants at Phoenix
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
San Diego at Atlanta
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Minnesota at Dallas (N)

Monday, November 14

Buffalo at Miami (N)

Sunday, November 20

Atlanta at L.A. Raiders
Chicago at Tampa Bay
Cincinnati at Dallas
Denver at New Orleans
Detroit vs. Green Bay (M/W)
Indianapolis at Minnesota
New York Jets at Buffalo
Philadelphia at Houston
Phoenix at Cleveland
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
San Diego at L.A. Rams
Seattle at Kansas City
New England at Miami (N)

Monday, November 21

Washington at San Francisco (N)

Thursday, November 24

Minnesota at Detroit
Houston at Dallas

Sunday, November 27

Buffalo at Cincinnati
Cleveland at Washington
Green Bay at Chicago
Kansas City at Pittsburgh
L.A. Rams at Denver
Miami at New York Jets
New England at Indianapolis
Phoenix at Philadelphia
San Francisco at San Diego
Tampa Bay at Atlanta
New York Giants at New Orleans (N)

Monday, November 28

L.A. Raiders at Seattle (N)

Sunday, December 4

Buffalo at Tampa Bay
Dallas at Cleveland
Denver at L.A. Raiders
Green Bay at Detroit
Indianapolis at Miami
New Orleans at Minnesota
New York Jets at Kansas City
Phoenix at New York Giants
San Diego at Cincinnati
San Francisco at Atlanta
Seattle at New England
Washington at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Houston (N)

Monday, December 5

Chicago at L.A. Rams (N)

Saturday, December 10

Indianapolis at New York Jets
Philadelphia at Phoenix

Sunday, December 11

Atlanta at L.A. Rams
Cincinnati at Houston
Dallas at Washington
Detroit at Chicago
Kansas City at New York Giants
L.A. Raiders at Buffalo
Minnesota at Green Bay
New Orleans at San Francisco
Pittsburgh at San Diego
Tampa Bay at New England
Denver at Seattle (N)

Monday, December 12

Cleveland at Miami (N)

Saturday, December 17

New England at Denver
Washington at Cincinnati

Sunday, December 18

Atlanta at New Orleans
Buffalo at Indianapolis
Detroit at Tampa Bay
Green Bay at Phoenix
Houston at Cleveland
Kansas City at San Diego
Miami at Pittsburgh
New York Giants at New York Jets
Philadelphia at Dallas
Seattle at L.A. Raiders
L.A. Rams at San Francisco (N)

Monday, December 19

Chicago at Minnesota (N)

Saturday, December 24

Monday, December 28

First Round Playoffs

Saturday, December 31

Sunday, January 1

Divisional Playoffs

Sunday, January 8

AFC & NFC Championships

Sunday, January 22

Super Bowl XXIII
(Joe Robbie Stadium/Miami, FL)

Sunday, January 29

AFC-NFC Pro Bowl
(Honolulu, HI)



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LINEBACKERS ON IMPACT

Today's super linebackers rush the quarterback and play the run as well as the pass

by **LARRY FELSER**

BUFFALO NEWS

● In the spring hell froze over in the National Football League. A top-of-the-line free agent changed teams, something that had never happened since the league and the players' union agreed on a compensation formula for such movement in 1977. The player was Wilber Marshall. The price was a pair of first-round draft choices, payable by the Washington Redskins to the Chicago Bears. The consensus in NFL circles is that the Redskins made a terrific deal.

Late last summer, the Seattle Seahawks risked alienating their defensive unit, possibly

their entire team, by signing Brian Bosworth to an \$11 million contract. Then, last October, just after the players' strike, the Buffalo Bills traded two first-round draft choices, a second-round selection, and Greg Bell, who had been their starting running back for the right to sign rookie Cornelius Bennett. It was a higher price than the Denver Broncos paid for John Elway in 1983.

Marshall, Bosworth, and Bennett all have something in common: their position on the field. All are linebackers, and linebackers are now the coin of the realm in the NFL.

For decades, linebackers have been special people in pro football. Names such as Chuck Bednarik, Dick Butkus, George Connor, Ray Nitschke, Bobby Bell, Willie Lanier, Bill George, Joe Schmidt, Sam Huff, and now Jack Ham occupy niches in the Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. But the super linebackers of

today are a much different breed. They possess the athletic ability of basketball forwards, the body control of the funkiest running backs, and the instinct for the ball that formerly seemed reserved for the best of free safeties.

The signing of Marshall by Washington owner Jack Kent Cooke and his general manager, Bobby Beathard, was a brilliant move. Marshall is a great athlete who is able to pursue and punish even the fastest ball carriers, drop back into pass coverage against the finest quarterbacks, and, under certain circumstances, to become an essential part of the pass rush. The last task should chill any Washington opponent. The Redskins already descend upon the passer with a ferocity led by ends Charles Mann and Dexter Manley. Safety Alvin Walton, used as a "spy," was one of the most important elements in Washington's defensive game plan for the Super Bowl. His blitzing of Elway, the Denver quarterback, was a principal reason the Broncos' passing game became so disrupted.

Factor Marshall into that equation and it should be enough to baffle virtually any opposing offensive coordinator. Considering that Washington drafted last in the first round this year and, with Marshall in its lineup, will almost surely draft deep in the first round again in 1989, two late first-round draftees amount to little more than pocket change for the Skins. In essence, Washington passed up chances to draft two good players with potential for one proven, playoff-tested all-pro who is just 26 years old.

The argument over whether Buffalo had paid too dearly for Bennett was settled with approximately one minute to play in the first quarter of Bennett's NFL debut against Denver in Rich Stadium.

The unofficial endorsement of the price tag came in the expression on Elway's face on Bennett's inaugural play as a professional.

It was third down, six yards to go on the Broncos' 14-yard line. Elway moved two steps back to set up in the passing pocket when a look of shock crossed his face.

Bennett had roared after him like an Olympic sprinter, blasting out of the blocks.

Elway's pass fell incomplete. On his second play as a



**WILBER
MARSHALL**

Ron Vesely

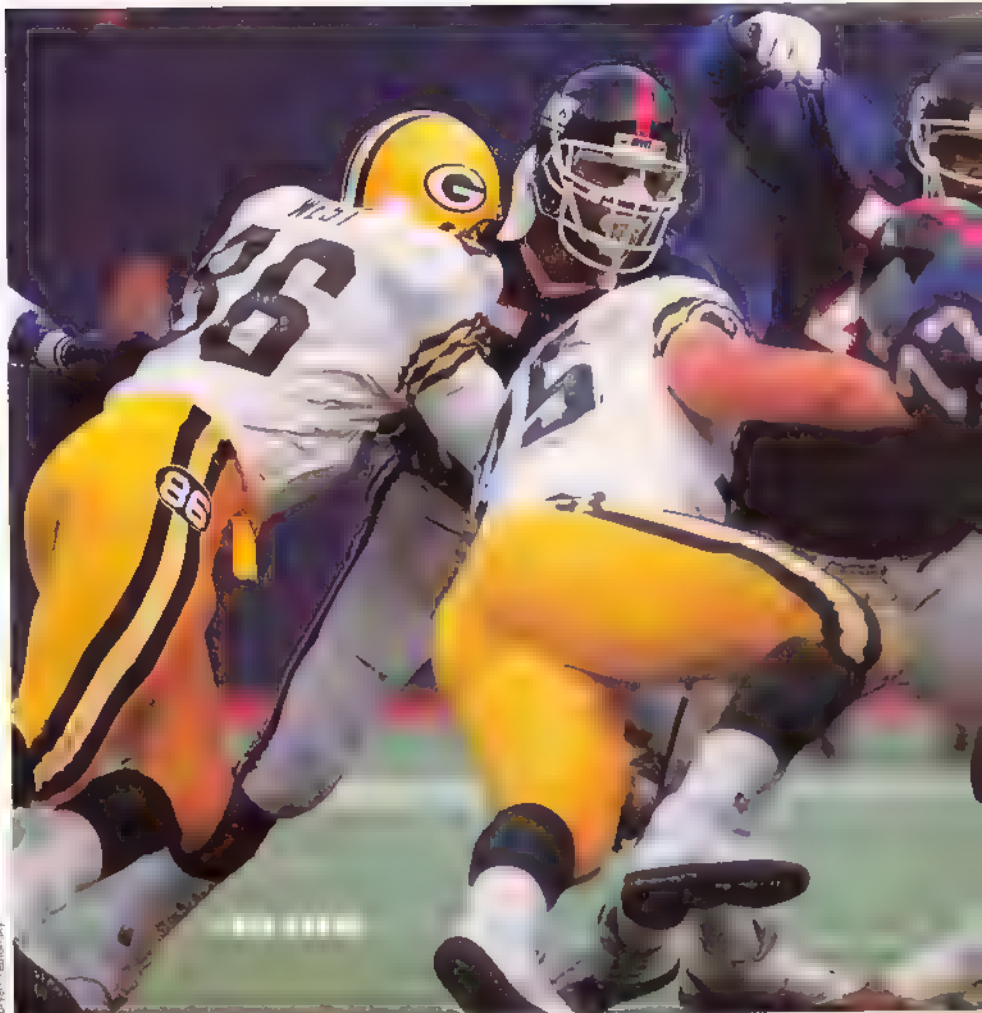
pro, Bennett hurried Elway into another incompletion. On play No. 3, the Broncos ran a sweep away from him. On his fourth play, Denver was penalized for holding. On his fifth play, less than a half hour into his NFL career, Bennett was being double-teamed.

After Buffalo scored its 21-14 upset victory, Elway remarked, "Bennett is as good as anyone. He ranks up there with the very best. That's why we had so many holding penalties. Our guys kept thinking 'pass rush.' With Bruce Smith on one side and Bennett on the other, Buffalo is awfully tough."

That's what the Bills had in mind when they made the trade. They were not disappointed. Bennett never let up. In his last game of the season (against Philadelphia) with Buffalo eliminated from playoff contention, he made 16 tackles, recorded four sacks, forced three fumbles, and recovered a fumble himself.

The emergence of the super linebacker as a player of immense importance in the NFL is a relatively recent development. Lawrence Taylor of the New York Giants, long considered the quintessential pro linebacker, begins his eighth season and the New England Patriots' Andre Tippett, another free-agent target after Marshall's signing, is in his seventh. But most of the sam-bang linebackers, including Marshall, have been around for five seasons or less.

Ask NFL defensive coaches which player will most likely succeed L.T. as king of the L.B.s and chances are you would receive one of two answers: Bennett or Carl Banks, Taylor's Giant teammate. Banks outperformed Taylor last season and for most of 1986. The



Dallas Cowboys will vouch for Banks. He had a 12-tackle game against them early last season, followed by a 15-tackle game later on.

"You line up the tight end against him and Banks is going to win 90 percent of the time," says Robbie Jones, another Giant linebacker. The fact that the tight end has to duel with Banks creates enormous opportunities for Taylor. If Taylor played across from a lesser outside linebacker, more opposing offensive strategists would try to tie up L.T. with that extra blocker. Instead, the backhanded compliment is paid to Banks.

In Buffalo, Walt Corey, the Bills' defensive coordinator, passed up the opportunity to copy the Giants' alignment. He could have used it, with Bennett on one side and the Bills' No. 1 draftee of last year, Shane Conlan, on the other. Corey believes in the value of pursuit from the inside linebacking position. He thinks the era of the Jack Reynolds-style run-stuffer is passé. So when Bennett was signed, Conlan was switched from outside linebacker to inside. Corey lined him up alongside Bennett and unleashed him from his new position. Conlan won the NFL's defensive Rookie of the

Year Award, with Bennett the runner-up despite playing only half a season.

Indianapolis thinks it has a clone of Banks in Duane Bickett, who became a Pro Bowler in his second season. Bickett, like Banks, is known for his all-round skills, particularly for his toughness against the run.

"The game I play," said Bickett, grading himself, "is that steady, game-after-game, hard-nosed type. I try to be aggressive at all times. That type of play doesn't vary a lot."

The Colts had the chance to build a shattering linebacking unit before they gave up on signing Bennett, whom they had made the second overall pick in the draft after quarterback Vinny Testaverde. Instead, they chose to acquire all-pro running back Eric Dickerson from the Los Angeles Rams in a three-cornered deal that also involved Buffalo's acquisition of Bennett's rights. Indy made the playoffs with Dickerson, but it should be noted that when the Colts and Bills met after that trade, Dickerson was held to 19 yards in 11 carries, his worst day as a pro. Bennett had a major hand in those figures as Buffalo won, 27-3, in the Hoosier Dome.

continued

There may be a few better inside linebackers in the league than John Offerdahl of Miami, but none carries as heavy a burden. The Dolphins have been trying to rebuild their defense for more than five years, and now the restoration is centered around Offerdahl whom the team's drafters virtually stole in the second round three years ago. After being selected for the Pro Bowl following his rookie season, Offerdahl suffered a serious injury to a biceps muscle during the 1987 preseason. That kept him out of the lineup until November, but once he returned, the Miami defense improved markedly, despite the loss of star outside linebacker Hugh Green.

"John has everything that you would want as far as leadership qualities and someone to build upon," said Miami coach Don Shula. "He's a young player you can give a lot of responsibility to."

If Offerdahl tiptoed into the pros in relative obscurity after a college career at Western Michigan, Bosworth barged into the NFL following a well-documented junior year at Oklahoma. There were times when the Boz lived up to the hype. Almost always, he was a crashing hitter. At times he demonstrated that he does indeed have amazing closing speed that allows him to range from side to side from his inside backer position. He is plenty smart, smart enough to pick up the intricacies of dropping back into pass coverage. But the



JOHN OFFERDAHL

images that linger are of Bo Jackson of the Los Angeles Raiders running away from Bosworth down the sideline for a touchdown; of Bo running over him at the goal line for another score; of the Boz getting his nose rubbed in it by other disdainful opponents.

Tom Catlin, Seattle's defensive coordinator, said, "The strike was a giant step backward for him. He was four weeks late reporting to camp and then sat for three weeks during the strike." The lapses in his education as a pro linebacker were complicated by Bosworth's



SHANE CONLAN



ANDRE TIPPETT

own insistence upon becoming a celebrity, a national personality, before he became a polished pro football player. The problem was further exacerbated by his mouth, which ran on prematurely and incessantly. "He does some things pretty well," admitted Catlin. "He's slow on reacting on other things. I'd hoped for something better by this point."

Fredd Young, who came out of obscurity to deve op into an all-pro linebacker in four seasons, summed up the Seahawks' feelings toward their controversial colleague. "If Bran Bosworth had a normal haircut," said Young, in the heat of his own salary push after last season, "no one in Seattle would know who he is." Nevertheless, if Bosworth does tend to business and accepts Catlin's tutelage, there sn't a talent appraiser in the NFL who would

deny that he could rank with Banks, Bennett, Marshall, or any of the best at his position.

For that matter, Young is approaching a similar category now. Young, a ferocious hitter who paid his dues as the best special teams' player in the AFC before he became a regular, and Freddie Joe Nunn of the Phoenix Cardinals rank near the top of the speed linebackers whose forte is flying to the point of attack. In fact, the Seahawks eventually could field a linebacking unit that might rival that of the Giants. Seattle used the supplementary draft to acquire Bosworth, which meant that it forfeited its No. 1 selection this year. But with their regular first-round pick last year the Seahawks selected Tony Woods of the University of Pittsburgh. He didn't arrive with the impact of Bosworth, but at Pitt Woods was compared to Hugh Green and Rickey Jackson, the New Orleans Saints' all-pro. Woods has the size and speed that will allow Catlin to use him like a down lineman in some pass-rush situations much as Buffalo uses Bennett.

The Cleveland Browns are anticipating the coming of age of Mike Junkin. They traded up in order to draft him, right behind Bennett, a year ago. Junkin, who many feel has the speed and athletic ability to rank with the best of the young linebackers, broke his wrist in his fourth game last season and played no more after that. But to that point, he had not performed up to expectations.

"I'm excited that Junkin comes in this year with a lot less pressure on him," said coach Marty Schottenheimer. Maybe, but the Browns traded long-time Pro Bowl linebacker Chip Banks and their own No. 1 selection to San Diego in order to draft Junkin. The team's followers aren't inclined to let them forget it.

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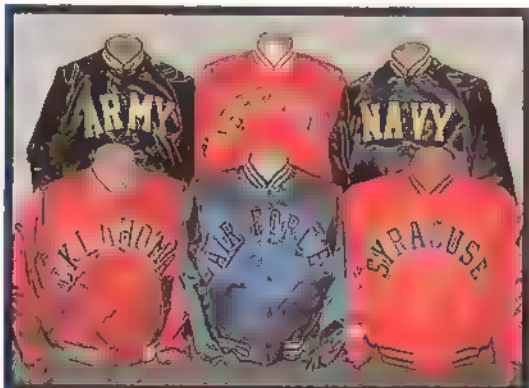
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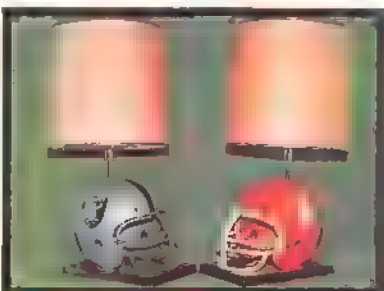
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Oklahoma	ABCDEFGHIJ	RSTUUVWX
Oklahoma St.	ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQ	STUUVWX
Oregon	ABCDEFGHIJ	RSTU
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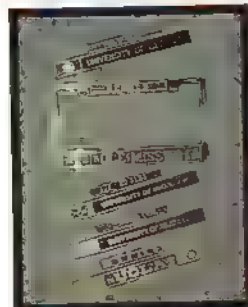
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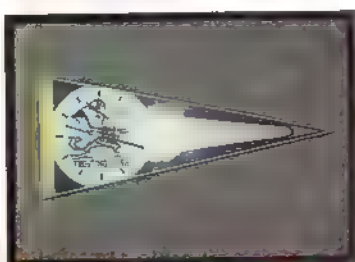
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PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP

1987 NFL FINAL STANDINGS

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	11	4	0	.733	379	285
Dallas	7	8	0	.467	340	348
St. Louis	7	8	0	.467	362	368
Philadelphia	7	8	0	.467	337	380
New York Giants	6	9	0	.400	280	312

Central Division

Chicago	11	4	0	.733	356	282
Minnesota	8	7	0	.533	336	335
Green Bay	5	9	1	.367	255	300
Detroit	4	11	0	.267	269	384
Tampa Bay	4	11	0	.267	286	360

Western Division

San Francisco	13	2	0	.867	459	253
New Orleans	12	3	0	.800	422	283
Los Angeles Rams	6	3	0	.400	317	361
Atlanta	3	12	0	.200	205	436

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Western Division	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	10	4	1	.700	379	288
Seattle	9	6	0	.600	371	314
San Diego	8	7	0	.533	253	317
Los Angeles Raiders	5	10	0	.333	301	289
Kansas City	4	11	0	.267	273	388

Central Division

Cleveland	10	5	0	.667	390	239
Houston	9	6	0	.600	345	349
Pittsburgh	8	7	0	.533	285	299
Cincinnati	4	11	0	.267	285	370

Eastern Division

Indianapolis	9	6	0	.600	300	238
New England	8	7	0	.533	320	293
Miami	8	7	0	.533	362	335
Buffalo	7	8	0	.467	270	305
New York Jets	6	9	0	.400	334	360

WILD CARD GAMES

Houston 23, Seattle 20
Minnesota 44, New Orleans 10

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Cleveland 38, Indianapolis 21
Denver 34, Houston 10
Minnesota 36, San Francisco 24
Washington 21, Chicago 17

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Denver 38, Cleveland 33
Washington 17, Minnesota 10

SUPER BOWL XXII

Washington 42, Denver 10

AFC WILD CARD GAME

Seattle	7	3	3	7	0-20
Houston	3	10	7	0	3-23

First Period

Seattle: Largent 20 screen pass from Kneg (Johnson kick), 3:16
Houston: FG Zendejas 47, 10:16

Second Period

Houston: Rozier 1 run (Zendejas kick), 1:43
Houston: FG Zendejas 49, 8:11
Seattle: FG Johnson 33, 11:50

Third Period

Seattle: FG Johnson 41, 6:37
Houston: Drewrey 29 pass from Moon (Zendejas kick), 12:26

Fourth Period

Seattle: Largent 12 pass from Kneg (Johnson kick), 14:34

Overtime

Houston: FG Zendejas 42, 8:05

Team Statistics	Seattle	Houston
First downs	11	27
Rushing	1	9
Passing	10	18
Penalty	0	0
Third down efficiency	2-12	10-18
Fourth down efficiency	1-1	0-0
Net yards	250	437
Plays	52	84
Average gain	4.8	5.2
Net yards rushing	28	178
Rushes	11	50
Average per rush	2.6	3.6
Net yards passing	221	259
Completed-attempted	16-39	21-32
Yards per pass play	5.3	7.6
Sacked-yards lost	2-16	2-14
Had intercepted	0	1
Punts-average	7-44	3-35
Total return yardage	226	92
Punts-returns	2-66	4-27
Kickoffs-returns	6-132	4-65
Interceptions	1-28	0-0
Penalties-yards	3-20	4-25
Fumbles-lost	1-1	2-1
Time of possession	20:21	47:44

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Seattle, Williams 7-27, Morns 4-2
Houston, Highsmith 12-74, Rozier 21-66,
Pinkett 11-29, Wallace 2-11, Moon 4-(-2)
Passing: Seattle, Kneg 16-38-0-237, Williams
0-1-0-0 Houston, Moon 21-32-1-273
Receiving: Seattle, Largent 7-132, Butler 3-73,
Skansi 2-13, Williams 2-5, Tice 1-8, Morns
1-6 Houston, Grivins 7-89, Hill 6-84,
Drewrey 3-62, Highsmith 2-17, Wallace 1-11
Rozier 1-7, Pinkett 1-3
Interceptions: Seattle, Jenkins
Missed Field Goals: Houston, Zendejas 52, 29

NFC WILD CARD GAME

Minnesota	10	21	3	10-44
New Orleans	7	3	0	0-10

First Period

New Orleans: Martin 10 pass from Hebert
(Andersen kick), 1:23

Minnesota: FG C. Nelson 42, 6:59

Minnesota: Carter 84 punt return
(C. Nelson kick), 11:57

Second Period

Minnesota: Jordan 5 pass from Wilson
(C. Nelson kick), 3:19

Minnesota: Carter 10 pass from Rice
(C. Nelson kick), 8:50

New Orleans: FG Andersen 40, 11:54

Minnesota: Jones 44 pass from Wilson
(C. Nelson kick), 15:00

Third Period

Minnesota: FG C. Nelson 32, 13:45

Fourth Period

Minnesota: FG C. Nelson 19, 7:46

Minnesota: Dozier 8 run (C. Nelson kick), 13:14

Team Statistics	Minnesota	New Orleans
First downs	28	9
Rushing	14	0
Passing	14	7
Penalty	0	2
Third down efficiency	12-19	2-10
Fourth down efficiency	0-1	0-0
Net yards	417	149
Plays	86	47
Average gain	4.8	3.2
Net yards rushing	210	53
Rushes	50	14
Average per rush	4.2	3.8
Net yards pass ng	207	96
Completed-attempted	17-30	11-31
Yards per pass play	6.9	3.2
Sacked-yards lost	6-42	2-8
Had intercepted	0	4
Punts-average	3-32	6-44
Total return yardage	188	101
Punts-returns	6-143	1-0
Kickoffs-returns	0-0	7-101
Interceptions	4-45	0-0
Penalties-yards	5-42	4-26
Fumbles-lost	4-2	3-2
Time of possession	41:18	18:42

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Minnesota, D. Nelson 17-73,
Anderson 7-49, Dozier 8-45, Fenney 7-20,
Rice 4-10, Kramer 2-5, Wilson 2-5, Gannon
3-3, New Orleans, Hill 8-39, Mayes 3-11,
Herbert 2-2, Jordan 1-1



Passing Minnesota, Kramer 5-9-0-50, Wilson 11-20-0-189, Rice 1-1-0-10, New Orleans Hebert 9-19-2-84, Wilson 2-12-2-20
Receiving Minnesota, Carter 6-79, D. Nelson 2-56, Lewis 2-27, Rice 2-17, Jordan 2-17, Jones 1-44, Gustafson 1-12, Anderson 1-(-3), New Orleans, Brenner 2-33, Pattison 2-18, Hill 2-15, Hillard 2-15, Tice 2-13, Martin 1-10

Interceptions Minnesota, Holt Harris, Rutland, Freeman

Missed Field Goals None

AFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF

Indianapolis .. 7 .. 7 .. 0 .. 7-21
 Cleveland .. 7 .. 7 .. 7 .. 17-38

First Period

Cleveland: Byner 10 pass from Kosar (Bahr kick), 6-46

Indianapolis: Beach 2 pass from Trudeau (B asucci kick), 12-44

Second Period

Cleveland: Langhorne 39 pass from Kosar (Bahr kick), 13-09

Indianapolis: Dickerson 19 pass from Trudeau (B asucci kick), 14-18

Third Period

Cleveland: Byner 2 run (Bahr kick), 13-04

Fourth Period

Cleveland: FG Bahr 22, 3-51

Cleveland: Brennan 2 pass from Kosar (Bahr kick), 11-16

Indianapolis: Bentley 1 run (B asucci kick), 13-53

Cleveland: Minnifield 48 interception return (Bahr kick), 14-2

Team Statistics	Indianapolis	Cleveland
First downs ..	23	25
Rushing ..	4	10
Passing ..	16	13
Penalty ..	3	2
Third down efficiency ..	7-12	11-14
Fourth down efficiency ..	0-1	0-0
Net yards ..	315	404
Plays ..	62	65
Average gain ..	5.1	6.2
Net yards rushing ..	63	175
Rushes ..	21	34
Average per rush ..	3.0	5.1
Net yards passing ..	252	229
Completed-attempted ..	22-39	20-31
Yards per pass play ..	6.1	7.4
Sacked-yards lost ..	2-14	0-0
Had intercepted ..	2	1
Punts-average ..	4-44	1-37
Total return yardage ..	124	101
Punts-returns ..	0-0	3-32
Kickoffs-returns ..	7-124	2-21
Interceptions ..	1-0	2-48
Penalties-yards ..	7-75	4-20
Fumbles-lost ..	1-0	2-0
Time of possession ..	27:34	32:26

Individual Statistics

Rushing Indianapolis, Dickerson 15-50

Bentley 4-9, Trudeau 2-4, Cleveland, Byner 23-122, Mack 6-38, Manoa 4-10, Kosar 1-5.

Passing Indianapolis, Trudeau 21-33-1-251, Salisbury 1-6-1-15, Cleveland, Kosar 20-31-1-229

Receiving Indianapolis, Dickerson 7-65,

Brooks 5-78, Bentley 4-47, Bouza 2-24

Beach 2-6, Murray 1-25, Bell 1-21

Cleveland, Newsome 4-65, Byner 4-36

Brennan 3-25, Mack 3-17, Fontenot 2-20

Langhorne 1-39, Slaughter 1-14, McNeil 1-8, Weathers 1-5

Interceptions Indianapolis, Robinson

Cleveland, Minnifield

Missed Field Goals None

AFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF

Houston .. 0 .. 3 .. 0 .. 7-10
 Denver .. 14 .. 10 .. 3 .. 7-34

First Period

Denver: Lang 1 run (Karlis kick), 6-19

Denver: Kay 27 pass from Elway (Karlis kick), 13-34

continued

Washington fell behind Denver, 10-0, after a Rich Karlis field goal, then almost fumbled the subsequent kickoff in Super Bowl XXII

Mike Powell / All Sport



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Cowboys - 54 R White	49ers - 42 Loft	Browns - 44 Byner
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Giants - 20 Morris	Vikings - 81 Carter	Raiders - 32 Allen
Giants - 53 Carson	Lions - 16 Long	Raiders - 75 Long
Giants - 58 Taylor	Saints - 36 Mayes	Seahawks - 28 Warner
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D) Bears Sack Club	Q) P S mms	
E) H Long	R) L Taylor	
F) M Allen	S) Carl Banks	
G) J Montana	T) Giants Sack Club	
H) 49ers T.D. Club	U) Steve Largent	
I) B Kosar	V) B Bosworth	
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PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP

Second Period

Denver FG Karlis 43, 3:20
Houston FG Zendejas 46, 9:03
Denver Kay 1 pass from Elway (Karlis kick) 13:08

Third Period

Denver FG Karlis 23, 2:29

Fourth Period

Houston Givins 19 pass from Moon (Zendejas kick) 6:38
Denver Elway 3 run (Karlis kick), 10:33



Michael B. Reicher

Team Statistics	Houston	Denver
First downs	20	19
Rushing	5	9
Passing	14	9
Penalty	1	1
Third down efficiency	8-16	4-9
Fourth down efficiency	2-4	1-1
Net yards	337	316
Plays	69	55
Average gain	4.9	5.7
Net yards rushing	73	61
Rushes	28	29
Average per rush	2.8	2.1
Net yards passing	264	255
Completed attempted	24-43	14-25
Yards per pass play	6.1	9.8
Sacked-yards lost	0-0	1-4
Had intercepted	2	1
Punts-average	3-45	2-46
Total return yardage	64	118
Punts-returns	0-0	2-15
Kickoffs-returns	3-62	2-28
Interceptions	1-2	2-75
Penalties-yards	10-73	4-35
Fumbles-lost	2-1	0-0
Time of possession	32:33	27:27

Individual Statistics

Rushing Houston, Rozier 9-25, Pinkett 6-20, Moon 5-15, Highsmith 5-13, Givins 1-0, Denver Winder 13-46, Sewell 5-9, Elway 4-8, Beil 2-7, Kubak 2-(3), Lang 3-(6)
Passing Houston, Moon 24-43 2-264, Denver Elway 14-25 1-259
Receiving Houston, Givins 6-84, Hill 5-93, Duncan 4-32, Highsmith 4-20, Drewrey 2-17, Williams 1-7, Rozier 1-6, Pinkett 1-5, Denver Johnson 4-105, Kay 3-57, Sewell 3-41, Lang 1-25, Boddie 1-15, Moble 1-9, Natliel 1-7
Interceptions Houston, Allen, Denver Mecklenburg, Haynes
Missed Field Goals None

Tim Smith (left) rushed for a record 204 yards and 2 touchdowns. Gary Clark (below) caught 3 passes for 55 yards and a TD, the Redskins' defense sacked Broncos' quarterback John Elway 5 times in the Super Bowl.

NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF

Minnesota 3, 17, 10, 6-36
San Francisco 3, 0, 14, 7-24

First Period

Minnesota FG C. Nelson 21, 5:43
San Francisco FG Wersching 43, 13:23

Second Period

Minnesota Hilton 7 pass from Wilson (C. Nelson kick), 2:34
Minnesota FG C. Nelson 23, 6:33
Minnesota Rulland 45 interception return (C. Nelson kick), 7:24

Third Period

San Francisco Fuller 48 interception return (Wersching kick), 1:42

Minnesota Jones 5 pass from Wilson (C. Nelson kick), 4:45

San Francisco Young 5 run (Wersching kick), 10:59

Minnesota FG C. Nelson 40, 13:38

Fourth Period

Minnesota FG C. Nelson 46, 3:21
San Francisco Frank 16 pass from Young (Wersching kick), 11:18
Minnesota FG C. Nelson 23, 14:33

Team Statistics	Minnesota	San Francisco
First downs	22	17
Rushing	5	6
Passing	15	10
Penalty	2	1
Third down efficiency	7-17	4-15
Fourth down efficiency	0-0	0-0
Net yards	397	358
Plays	70	66
Average gain	5.7	5.4
Net yards rushing	117	115
Rushes	34	18

Michael B. Reicher



Average per rush	3.4	6.4
Net yards passing	280	243
Completed attempted	20-34	24-44
Yards per pass play	7.8	5.1
Sacked-yards lost	2-18	4-24
Had intercepted	1	2
Punts-average	5-36	6-41
Total return yardage	145	195
Punts-returns	3-29	3-17
Kickoffs-returns	3-76	8-130
Interceptions	2-40	1-48
Penalties-yards	2-20	8-75
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-0
Time of possession	33:43	26:17

continued



Mike Powell / All Sport

PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP



Defensive end Dexter Manley (above) kept the pressure on Denver. Ricky Sanders had 9 catches for a record 193 yards and 2 touchdowns for Washington

Individual Statistics

Rushing Minnesota: D. Nelson 11-42, W. Wilson 6-30, Carter 1-30, Anderson 7-9, A. Rice 6-8, Dozier 3-(-2), San Francisco, Young 6-72, Montana 3-20, Craig 7-17, Rathman 1-12, Cribbs 1-(-6)
Passing Minnesota, W. Wilson 20-34-1-298
 San Francisco, Montana 12-26-1-109,
 Young 12-17-1-158, Sydney 0-1-0-0
Receiving Minnesota, Carter 10-227, A. Rice 4-39, D. Nelson 2-17, Hilton 1-7, H. Jones 1-5, Lewis 1-5, Anderson 1-(-2), San Francisco, Craig 9-78, M. Wilson 4-50, J. Rice 3-28, Taylor 2-48, Rathman 2-18, Frank 1-16, Clark 1-13, Cribbs 1-7, B. Jones 1-7, Young 0-2
Interceptions Minnesota, Rutland, Lee San Francisco, Fuller
Missed Field Goals San Francisco, Wersching 26, 48

NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF

Washington.....0.....14.....7.....0-21
 Chicago.....7.....7.....3.....0-17

First Period

Chicago: Thomas 2 run (Butler kick), 8:37

Second Period

Chicago: Morris 14 pass from McMahon (Butler kick), 6:54

Washington: Rogers 3 run (Haji-Sheikh kick), 10:09

Washington: Didier 18 pass from Williams (Haji-Sheikh kick), 14:09

Third Period

Washington: Green 52 punt return (Haji-Sheikh kick), 3:20

Chicago: FG Butler 25, 10:13

Team Statistics

	Washington	Chicago
First downs	17	15
Rushing	4	8
Passing	11	7
Penalty	2	0
Third down efficiency	7-14	4-13
Fourth down efficiency	0-3	1-2
Net yards	272	280

Plays	59	64
Average gain	4.6	4.4
Net yards rushing	72	110
Rushes	29	30
Average per rush	2.5	3.7
Net yards passing	200	170
Completed-attempted	14-29	15-29
Yards per pass play	6.7	5.0
Sacked yards lost	1-7	5-27
Had intercepted	1	3
Punts-average	4-42	4-36
Total return yardage	144	115
Punts-returns	3-65	2-12
Kickoffs-returns	4-56	3-103
Interceptions	3-23	1-0
Penalties-yards	3-20	5-50
Fumbles-lost	1-1	1-0
Time of possession	27:03	32:57

Individual Statistics

Rushing Washington, Smith 16-66, Rogers 6-13, Bryant 3-8, Williams 2-(-1), Clark 1-(-6), Schroeder 1-(-8) Chicago, Payton 18-85, Suhey 4-8, Gentry 2-5, McMahon 2-5, Sanders 2-4, Thomas 2-3

Passing Washington, Williams 14-29-1-207
 Chicago, McMahon 15-29-3-197

Receiving Washington, Sanders 6-92, Clark 4-56, Didier 2-32, Warren 1-16, Rogers 1-11 Chicago, Gentry 3-43, Payton 3-20, Boso 3-19, Morris 2-47, Gauli 1-44

MacKinnon 1-16, Suhey 1-6, Sanders 1-2

Interceptions Washington, Wilburn, Davis, Woodberry Chicago, Richardson

Missed Field Goals Chicago, Butler 48

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

Cleveland.....0.....3.....21.....9-33
 Denver.....14.....7.....10.....7-38

First Period

Denver: Nattiel 8 pass from Elway (Karlis kick), 3:38

Denver: Sewell 1 run (Karlis kick), 11:06

Second Period

Cleveland: FG Bahr 24, 1:41

Denver: Lang 1 run (Karlis kick), 6:59

continued



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PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP



Clint Didier scored the last of Washington's record five touchdowns in the second quarter of the Super Bowl

Third Period

Cleveland: Langhorne 18 pass from Kosar (Bahr kick), 3:44
Denver: Jackson 80 pass from Elway (Karlis kick), 5:03
Cleveland: Byner 32 pass from Kosar (Bahr kick), 8:10
Cleveland: Byner 4 run (Bahr kick), 11:15
Denver: FG Karlis 38 14:50

Fourth Period

Cleveland: Slaughter 4 pass from Kosar (Bahr kick), 4:12
Denver: Winder 20 pass from Elway (Karlis kick), 10:59
Cleveland: Safety, Horan ran out of end zone, 14:52

Team Statistics	Cleveland	Denver
First downs	25	24
Rushing	8	10
Passing	15	11
Penalty	2	3
Third down efficiency	8-14	7-14
Fourth down efficiency	1-1	0-1
Net yards	464	412
Plays	70	67
Average gain	6.6	6.1
Net yards rushing	128	156
Rushes	27	39
Average per rush	4.7	4.0
Net yards passing	336	256
Completed-attempted	26-41	14-26
Yards per pass play	7.8	9.1
Sacked-yards lost	2-20	2-25
Had intercepted	1	1
Punts average	2-48	3-34
Total return yardage	131	56
Punts-returns	2-24	2-13
Kickoffs-returns	5-94	3-43
Interceptions	1-13	1-0
Penalties-yards	7-59	7-44
Fumbles-lost	3-3	2-0
Time of possession	31:37	28:23

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Cleveland, Byner 15-67, Mack 12-61, Denver, Winder 20-72, Lang 5-51, Elway 11-36, Boddie 1-8, Sewe 1-1, Horan 1-(-12)
Passing: Cleveland, Kosar 26-41-1-356, Denver, Elway 14-26-1-281
Receiving: Cleveland, Byner 7-120, Slaughter 4-53, Brennan 4-48, Mack 4-28, Newsome 3-35, Langhorne 2-48, Weathers 1-19, Tennell 1-5, Denver, Nathiel 5-95, Jackson 4-134, Winder 3-34, Sewel 1-10, Mobey 1-8
Interceptions: Cleveland Wright, Denver, Giberl
Missed Field Goals: Cleveland Bahr 45, Denver, Karlis 50

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

Minnesota .. 0 .. 7 .. 0 .. 3-10
Washington .. 7 .. 0 .. 3 .. 7-17

First Period

Washington: Bryant 42 pass from Williams (Haji-Sheikh kick), 10:53

Second Period

Minnesota: Lewis 23 pass from Wilson (C. Nelson kick), 13:00

Third Period

Washington: FG Haji-Sheikh 28, 10:30

Fourth Period

Minnesota: FG C. Nelson 18, 4:54
Washington: Clark 7 pass from Williams (Haji-Sheikh kick), 9:45

Team Statistics	Minnesota	Washington
First downs	16	11
Rushing	5	7

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PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP

Passing	10.....	4
Penalty	1.....	0
Third down efficiency	3-15.....	5-16
Fourth down efficiency	0-1.....	0-0
Net yards	259.....	280
Plays	68.....	60
Average gain	3.8.....	4.7
Net yards rushing	76.....	161
Rushes	21.....	34
Average per rush	3.6.....	4.7
Net yards passing	183.....	119
Completed-attempted	19-39.....	9-26
Yards per pass play	3.9.....	4.6
Sacked-yards lost	8-60.....	0-0
Had intercepted	1.....	0
Punts-average	10-32.....	8-39
Total return yardage	115.....	74
Punts-returns	4-57.....	4-10
Kickoffs-returns	3-58.....	3-54
Interceptions	0-0.....	1-10
Penalties-yards	2-10.....	3-18
Fumbles-lost	0-0.....	0-0
Time of possession	33:02.....	26:58

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Minnesota, Wilson 4-28, Anderson 4-25, D. Nelson 8-15, Rice 1-8, Fenney 2-2, Dozier 2-(-2), Washington, Smith 13-72, Rogers 12-46, Sanders 1-28, Williams 4-7, Clark 1-6, Bryant 3-3

Passing: Minnesota, Wilson 19-39-1-243, Washington, Williams 9-26-0-119

Receiving: Minnesota, Carter 7-85, Lewis 4-54, Jordan 3-56, D. Nelson 3-25, Rice 1-15, Anderson 1-8, Washington, Bryant 4-47, Clark 3-57, Allen 1-9, Warren 1-6

Interceptions: Washington, Kaufmann

Missed Field Goals: Washington, Haji-Sheikh 38, 47

SUPER BOWL XXII

At San Diego, CA, January 31

Washington	0	35	0	0	7-42
Denver	10	0	0	0	0-10

First Period

Denver: Nattiel 56 pass from Elway (Karl's kick), 1:57
Denver: FG Karl's 24, 5:51

Second Period

Washington: Sanders 80 pass from Williams (Haji-Sheikh kick), 0:53
Washington: Clark 27 pass from Williams (Haji-Sheikh kick), 4:45
Washington: Smith 58 run (Haji-Sheikh kick), 8:33
Washington: Sanders 50 pass from Williams (Haji-Sheikh kick), 11:18
Washington: Didier 8 pass from Williams (Haji-Sheikh kick), 13:56

Fourth Period

Washington: Smith 4 run (Haji-Sheikh kick), 1:51

Team Statistics	Washington	Denver
First downs	25.....	18
Rushing	13.....	16
Passing	11.....	10
Penalty	1.....	2
Third down efficiency	9-15.....	2-12
Fourth down efficiency	0-0.....	0-0
Net yards	602.....	327
Plays	72.....	61
Average gain	8.4.....	5.4
Net yards rushing	280.....	97
Rushes	40.....	17

Average per rush	7.0.....	5.7
Net yards passing	322.....	230
Completed-attempted	18-30.....	15-39
Yards per pass play	10.1.....	5.2
Sacked-yards lost	2-80.....	5-50
Had intercepted	1.....	3
Punts-average	4-37.....	7-36
Total return yardage	57.....	106
Punts-returns	1-0.....	2-18
Kickoffs-returns	3-46.....	5-88
Interceptions	3-11.....	1-0
Penalties-yards	6-65.....	5-26
Fumbles-lost	1-0.....	0-0
Time of possession	35:15.....	24:45

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Washington, Sanders 1-(-4), Smith 22-204, Williams 2-(-2), Bryant 8-38, Clark 1-25, Rogers 5-17, Griffin 1-2, Denver, Elway 3-32, Sewell 1-(-3), Winder 8-30, Lang 5-38

Passing: Washington, Williams 18-29-1-340, Schroeder 0-1-0-0, Denver, Elway 14-38-3-257, Sewell 1-1-0-23

Receiving: Washington, Sanders 9-193, Smith 1-9, Bryant 1-20, Monk 1-40, Warren 2-15, Clark 3-55, Didier 1-8, Denver, Nattiel 2-69, Elway 1-23, Jackson 4-76, Sewell 4-41, Winder 1-26, Lang 1-7, Kay 2-38

Interceptions: Washington, Wuburn 2-11, Davis 1-0, Denver, Castile 1-0

Missed Field Goals: Washington, Haji-Sheikh 46, Denver, Karl's 43

PAST SUPER BOWLS

1967	Green Bay 35	Kansas City 10
1968	Green Bay 33	Oakland 14
1969	New York Jets 16	Baltimore 7
1970	Kansas City 23	Minnesota 7
1971	Baltimore 16	Dallas 13
1972	Dallas 24	Miami 3
1973	Miami 14	Washington 7
1974	Miami 24	Minnesota 7
1975	Pittsburgh 16	Minnesota 6
1976	Pittsburgh 21	Dallas 17
1977	Oakland 32	Minnesota 14
1978	Dallas 27	Denver 10
1979	Pittsburgh 35	Dallas 31
1980	Pittsburgh 31	Los Angeles Rams 19
1981	Oakland 27	Philadelphia 10
1982	San Francisco 26	Cincinnati 21
1983	Washington 27	Miami 17
1984	Los Angeles Raiders 38	Washington 9
1985	San Francisco 38	Miami 16
1986	Chicago 46	New England 10
1987	New York Giants 39	Denver 20
1988	Washington 42	Denver 10

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1967	Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers
1968	Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers
1969	Joe Namath, New York Jets
1970	Len Dawson, Kansas City Chiefs
1971	Chuck Howley, Dallas Cowboys
1972	Roger Staubach, Dallas Cowboys
1973	Jake Scott, Miami Dolphins
1974	Larry Csonka, Miami Dolphins
1975	Franco Harris, Pittsburgh Steelers
1976	Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh Steelers
1977	Fred Betschke, Oakland Raiders
1978	Randy White and Harvey Martin, Dallas Cowboys
1979	Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh Steelers
1980	Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh Steelers
1981	Jim Plunkett, Oakland Raiders
1982	Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers
1983	John Elway, Washington Redskins
1984	Marcus Allen, Los Angeles Raiders
1985	Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers
1986	Richard Dent, Chicago Bears
1987	Phil Simms, New York Giants
1988	Doug Williams, Washington Redskins

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HALL OF FAME

The pro football Hall of Fame added a new page to its membership roster—Alan Page. He will join Jack Ham, Fred Biletnikoff, and Mike Ditka as the class of 1988. They will be inducted on July 30 in Canton, Ohio.

ALAN PAGE

The ceremony will also be homecoming for Alan Page, who is the first Canton native ever to be so honored. He achieved fame on the gridiron as part of another famous foursome, the "Purple People Eaters" (Carl Eller, Jim Marshall, Gary Larsen and later Doug Sutherland), the defensive line of the Minnesota Vikings that terrorized opponents in the late 1960s and early '70s.

Following an All America season at Notre Dame, Page was selected with the first of the Vikings' three opening-round picks in the initial NFL-AFL draft in 1967. Bud Grant, beginning his first year as Minnesota's coach, was looking for a player "who can turn a game around, maybe even on one play." Page filled the job description. Shifted from end, his college position, to tackle in the pros, he established a reputation for durability and quickness. He never missed a game in his 15-year career; in addition to his innumerable tackles and sacks, he blocked 28 kicks, recovered 23 fumbles, and scored 24 points. Starting in his second season, the Vikings won 10 Central Division titles and four NFC championships in 11 years and Page went to nine consecutive Pro Bowls. In 1971 he became the first de-



Focus On Sports

fender ever to win the league's Most Valuable Player award. That was also the first of his four Defensive Player of the Year honors.

"A defensive player should think of himself more as an aggressor, not as a defender," said Page. "My job is not to sit back and wait and then react to what the offense does. My job is to go after them."

Page was waived by Minnesota midway through the 1978 season and immediately claimed by the Chicago Bears, for whom he played until his retirement in 1981.

MIKE DITKA

The first tight end to be elected to the Hall of Fame, Mike Ditka helped to revolutionize his position. A consensus All-America at the Uni-

versity of Pittsburgh, he became the Chicago Bears' top draft choice in 1961. He caught 56 passes for 1,076 yards and 12 touchdowns to earn Rookie of the Year honors. He had 58 receptions in his second season and 59 in 1963, when the Bears won the NFL championship. Ditka had his best season in 1964 when he set a record for tight ends with 75 catches. He didn't miss a start in six years with Chicago, then was traded to the Philadelphia Eagles in 1967 for quarterback Jack Concannon. Surgery and injuries curtailed his playing time and he was dealt in 1969 to Dallas, for whom he contributed a TD reception in the Cowboys' Super Bowl VI victory over the Miami Dolphins. Ditka retired in 1972 with 427 catches for 5,812 yards and 43 touchdowns.

Continued





JACK HAM

Elected in his first year of eligibility following the mandatory five-year retirement period, Jack Ham joins Joe Greene as the only Hall of Fame members from Pittsburgh's "Steel Curtain" defense.

Selected in the second round of the 1971 draft after an All-America season at Penn State, Ham earned a starting role at outside linebacker in his rookie year and helped make the Steelers the dominant team of the 1970s. Like his Hall of Fame classmate Alan Page, Ham relied on quickness and smarts. In his 12-year career, he earned all-pro honors eight

straight times and the Steelers won an unprecedented four Super Bowl titles. In 1975, he was named the league's Defensive Player of the Year.

Ham minimized his individual contributions, emphasizing instead the efficiency of Pittsburgh's championship teams. "If I had been with another team, I might not have been thought of in the same light," he said. "We had a unique type of defense [that was] honed around the kind of talent we had." Others felt differently, for Ham was the only unanimous choice on the NFL's Team of the 1970s.

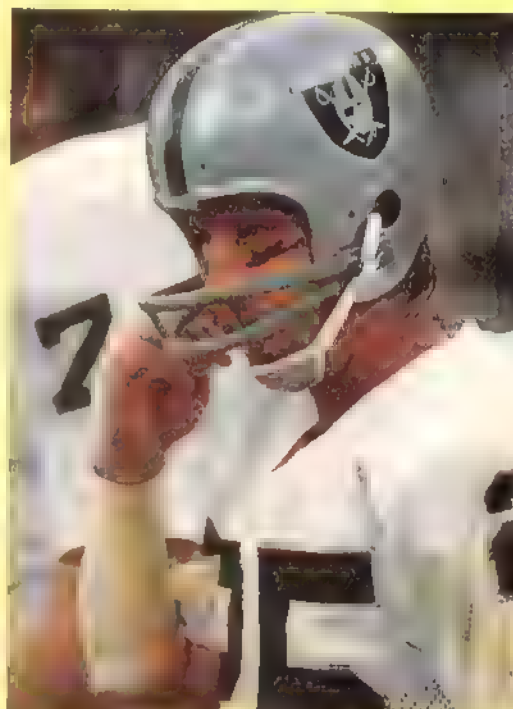
HALL OF FAME

FRED BILETNIKOFF

Fred Biletnikoff capped a consensus All-America senior year at Florida State by catching four touchdown passes in a Gator Bowl victory over Oklahoma. He became the No. 2 pick in the AFL draft in 1965 by the Oakland Raiders, and during his 14-year career his team never had a losing record. That was due in large part to his contributions. Biletnikoff had more than 40 receptions 10 years in a row and 77 touchdowns, the most in the franchise's history. When he retired in 1978, he was fourth on the NFL receiving chart with 589 catches for 8,974 yards.

The sure-handed Biletnikoff relied more on precise moves than blazing speed to get open. He played in five AFC championships and two Super Bowls and enjoyed his finest moment as the MVP in Super Bowl XI in 1977 when he caught four passes for 79 yards in Oakland's 32-14 victory over Minnesota.

"The thing that is most impressive about Fred," said former Raiders coach John Madden, "is that he is a man-made receiver. He has to work hard for everything he's got. He can catch anything he can touch. That's no accident—some receivers might catch 15 or 20 passes in practice; Fred will catch 100."



Malcolm W. Emmons

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DOUG WILLIAMS

TOUCH OF CLASS

Quarterback Doug Williams endorsed his own shoes last season. All alone one day, he painted a red "W" on the back of his plain, white cleats, the "W" standing for Williams and Washington, not necessarily in that order. Now, all these months later, shoe representatives park on his doorstep. Just because a shoe fits, however, doesn't mean Doug Williams wears it. Williams, the Redskins' Super Bowl XXII hero, has been a relatively invisible man since San Diego—by choice, by up-bringing. He has been to Walt Disney World (as promised in a commercial 15 seconds after the Super Bowl) and he's visited "Oprah."

"But I'm trying not to go everywhere in the world doing banquets," he said. "Everybody could give you a plaque every week. I'm trying not to get into that."

Doug Williams turned down Mardi Gras and Caesar's Palace for arthroscopic knee surgery. President Reagan invited him inside the Oval Office, and he couldn't say no. He did say no to drugs in a public service announcement. He said yes to former Chicago Bears linebacker Wilber Marshall when it was assumed he'd denounce the deal that made Marshall three times richer than he. He sent owner Jack Kent Cooke a letter, congratulating him on the Marshall signing and adding, "P.S. Thanks for letting me be a part of the 1987 Washington Redskins."

Why write? "It was easier for me to write than it was to call," Williams said. "I mean, you just don't keep Mr. Cooke on the phone."

His hometown, Zachary, La.—about the size of RFK Stadium—threw him a parade beyond compare. So what if they forgot the ticker

and the tape. In Washington, over \$1 million was spent on "Doug Williams—Touch of Class" T-shirts. In a city that's by and large black, he became the area's most popular athlete. But the issue of race was irrelevant.

"I believe that easily," he said. "You know what I've found, though? Sometimes, you think you appeal to just blacks, but I go through the airports, and the little white kids probably notice me quicker than their mom and dad do. When I was in Disney World, it was unbelievable. . . . It's not a black and white issue. It's kids. I love them."

A few hours after the Super Bowl, he limped into the night on crutches, his injured left knee out of adrenaline and very sore. Kids cornered him, and he signed every autograph.

"I like kids," he said. "I can deal with them any day. Adults? I hope nobody holds it against me, but when I'm dealing with adults, I like to deal with elderly ones. When they tell you how proud they are of you and of what you've been through, that means a lot. Because they've seen more than me. . . . My parents always said charity begins at home and is spread abroad. I grew up with that one."

So, this is the Washington Redskins' latest greatest role model. It isn't just that he won a Super Bowl on a wobbly knee or set a record for most Super Bowl touchdown passes or led Washington to a record five second-quarter touchdowns. It isn't just that he'd been an off-and-on starter during the season or that he'd ultimately lost his job because of a trick back and subsequently cried in front of a TV camera. Or that he'd lost his wife to cancer in 1983. Or that he'd played in the USFL and when that league folded had only one offer back into the NFL. Or that his dad was confined to a wheelchair or that somebody asked him before the Super Bowl, "How long have you been a black quarterback?"

It's all of those things that made his teammates in relative awe of him. Several Redskins want to renegotiate their 1988 contracts, but they're waiting to see what the Redskins do with Williams's contract first. Apparently, a couple of networks are in awe, too, because his 1987 football season might lead to a made-for-TV movie. Subject: his life. If he writes a book (and that's under negotiation), it should be better than the movie. "I'm in no rush," he said. "No one's got the story I have."

continued

Doug Williams capped a storybook season with a record performance in the Super Bowl

by TOM FRIEND

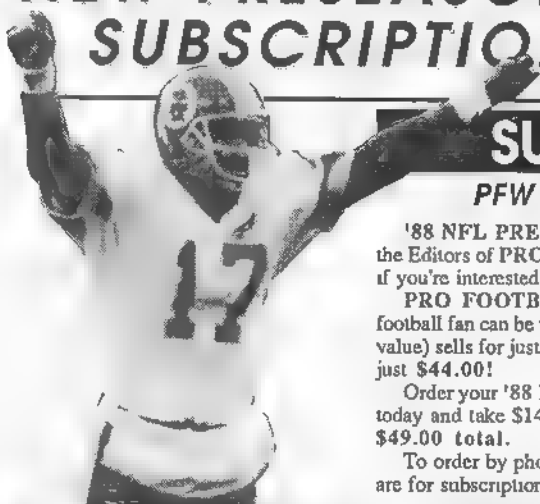
WASHINGTON POST



PRO Football

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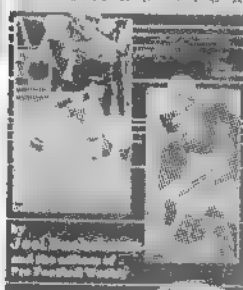
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DOUG WILLIAMS

Washington Redskins

His chapter on the Super Bowl season would be a long, choppy one with stories involving more than just himself. The other Redskins' quarterback, Jay Schroeder, sprained his shoulder in Week 1, and, as it turned out, the muscle never completely healed. He became master of the overthrow—the underthrow, and of arms folded (after he'd been benched). Yet Schroeder led the team to six victories.

Rookie running back Timmy Smith gained more yards in the Super Bowl (204) than in the regular season (126). He had played only two games total in his junior and senior years at Texas Tech—due to injuries—and there's still a pin in his leg. Redskins coach Joe Gibbs, known not to trust rookies, was hesitant to give Smith the football and didn't until the season's 14th week, when George Rogers ran gingerly with his head up for the umpteenth time.

Wide receivers Ricky Sanders and Gary Clark had intriguing tales to tell, too. Both are former USFL players, and Sanders was actually acquired from New England in 1986 for a relatively low draft choice. Sanders began 1987 as the third wideout, behind Clark and Art Monk, and he'd team up time and again with second-string quarterback Williams during practice on the scout team—a preview of things to come.

By season's end, Sanders might have been the team's No. 1 receiving threat, as well as a top kickoff-returner. He slushed in the rain to catch a game-winning TD from Schroeder against the Giants. And in the regular-season finale against the Vikings, he caught a hitch pass from Williams and sped into the end zone for the game-tying touchdown. In the subsequent overtime, he returned the kickoff to midfield and later made a catch to set up Ali Haji-Sheikh's winning field goal. Nicknamed "Slick," he set a Super Bowl record with 193 receiving yards.

Meanwhile, Clark, Sanders's roommate, made the Pro Bowl and all-Madden team with a sometimes ugly intensity. After a midseason loss in Philadelphia, he came barreling into the locker room, screaming, "We lost to the Eagles? The Eagles!" He had caught a touchdown in a game in which he wasn't even supposed to dress because of a leg injury.

Center Jeff Bostic was demoted to second team in training camp and then passed over during the season by rookie Ed Simmons and replacement player Darrick Briz. Eventually when starter Russ Grimm injured a knee, the Redskins' line coach, Joe Blugel, settled on a front five that included Bostic, and the line was sensationally Hoglike through the playoffs, keeping Grimm on the bench when he was more than able to return.

On defense, tackle Dave Butz played a game against the Jets (the first after the strike) after spending the previous day in the hospital. Apparently, he'd been out hunting one day and drank polluted water that put a parasite in his system. Dehydrated and weak, he still sacked quarterback Ken O'Brien to secure the win. In the playoff victory over the Bears and quarterback Jim McMahon, he was healthier and even more domineering.

"One good reason to beat the Bears was so McMahon wouldn't have the chance to do any

more commercials, sitting on a couch, wearing sunglasses and chewing gum with an open mouth," Butz said last winter.

Behind Butz was a fast and fast-maturing secondary. According to defensive coordinator Richie Petitbon, strong safety Alvin Walton, who led the team in tackles, could become better than Hall of Famer Ken Houston. Cornerback Barry Wilburn led the league with nine interceptions, plus he had two more in the Super Bowl. At the other corner, 5-foot-8 Darrell Green—considered the league's fastest player—essentially won the Redskins' two playoff games. In Chicago, with the score tied 14–14, he caught a punt at midfield, hurdled Cap Boso, grabbed his suddenly-pulled-out-of-whack ribs, and still waltzed into the end zone. Before the NFC title game the next week, Green took a pain shot for his sore ribs. On a final Vikings drive that could have tied the game, he belted running back Darrin Nelson at the goal line as Nelson was reaching for a final, fourth-down pass. The Skins were going to San Diego.

Bobby Beathard and Joe Gibbs

Gibbs and general manager Bobby Beathard played key roles during the 24-day players' strike. Beathard put a team together that won all three replacement games. Meanwhile, Gibbs never lost touch with his team. When the strike ended, the regulars came storming back, prepared to play a Monday night game against Dallas. But the Redskins—by league orders—had to tell them they could not play and to return the following week. There were hard feelings until Gibbs called them back for a second meeting.

The ultimate 1987 chapter, however, belonged to Williams, who began and ended the season in storybook fashion. Back in the September 13 season opener against Philadelphia, he walked on the field as an unsuspecting second-fiddle to Schroeder. In preseason the Redskins had tried to trade him to Los Angeles. But the Raiders wouldn't surrender a No. 1 pick. Actually, when the USFL folded before the 1986 season, Williams had also thought he'd become a Raider.

"Back then, R.C. [rumor control] had me going to the Raiders," he said. "They knew I was free, but nobody called, and next I know Joe Gibbs called. He asked me if I could handle being backup quarterback. I said, 'Yeah, because right then I wasn't no quarterback. So, that was it. Bobby called, and we worked out the deal. That's how easy it was.'"

Williams negotiated his own contract with Washington that year but forgot to ask for a signing bonus. When he told Beathard he, er, ahem, kind of wanted a bonus, Beathard said he'd ask Cooke, who agreed.

"Right then, that let me know they were a first-class organization," he said. "Because had signed the contract, they could've told me to get the hell out of the office."

Williams threw only one pass that 1986 season, yet he never threw a tantrum. "I could have bitched because I could have been playing. But no sense in bitching because I could have been home." When the Raider deal fell through, just before opening day in '87, he resigned himself to being a backup.

The Road to the Super Bowl

When Jay Schroeder injured his shoulder in the opener, Williams led the Redskins to a 34–

24 victory with two touchdown tosses.

"When I think about the Eagles' game," he said, "what it did, it shed a lot of light on the whole team, the organization. I think it was a confidence builder within the organization, as in, 'Now, we're in good shape. We've got two guys who can play.'"

With Schroeder still out, Williams threw three more TD passes the next week at Atlanta, but the team lost by a point and then lost three ensuing weeks due to the strike. Williams says he sat at home, knowing he'd be back on the bench after the strike. He was right, but the team struggled along. In the second quarter of a game against Detroit, Gibbs—who had never yanked a quarterback—yanked Schroeder.

"Shocked me," Williams said. "I'm standing there, and all of a sudden, he says, 'Warm up, you're goin' in.' I said, 'Huh?' I knew where I put my helmet. Yeah, I'd brought it out. You don't want to get caught in a situation leaving it in the dressing room and them saying, 'Doug, and you saying, 'Hold on coach, I've got to go get my helmet.'"

He conquered the Lions and became the starter until, on Thanksgiving Day, he suffered back spasms during practice. Williams called it bad luck and had to sit and watch Schroeder throw for 331 yards and beat the Giants. A couple of days afterward, Gibbs announced Schroeder as the new starter, and Williams tried his best to control his emotions. "The last time I went to the bench, I never dreamed I'd get a chance to play again. . . I was ready to play my role," he said.

The day after Christmas, he got a present: Schroeder's overthrow/underthrow rat-o was piling up in the regular-season finale against the Vikings. Gibbs made the switch again. "I didn't know it was coming, but I wasn't as shocked," Williams said. "Because after the Detroit game I thought anything can happen here." By Super Bowl time, it wasn't just Williams, the quarterback, but Williams, the black quarterback, the first in the Super Bowl. "The way they played up the Super Bowl," he said, "a lot of people probably thought it'd be one snap, and well, we've got history now let's get on with the game."

While John Elway was favored, Williams began favoring his left knee late in the first quarter when he slipped and twisted it. "The only doubt I had was when I first went down," he said. "But when I got up and was able to find out the knee was stable, yet in pain, I didn't have any doubts. I said 'Damn the pain, let's go with it.'"

After the Super Bowl rout and his subsequent knee surgery, Williams eventually returned home to Zachary and his six-year-old daughter, Ashley, and second wife, Lisa. He took Ashley and eight nieces and cousins to Disney World. One of the children didn't like how Williams would continually stop to sign autographs. "We don't want Uncle Doug to go with us, because he holds us up," she said.

Doug Williams had always had a great story to tell. His father had worked at an iron and pipe company; his mother had cleaned hospital rooms and then become an elementary school cook. The sixth of eight children, Doug had attended Grambling, been scorned as a Tampa Bay Buc, sat out a year of football in a contract dispute, lost his wife, and so on.

Suddenly, in 1987, there was a happy ending. Or was it a beginning?



Lawrence Taylor
and the Giants are pointing forward
their season-opening game
with Doug Williams and the
Super Bowl champion Redskins.

● The Washington Redskins are trying something new this year. After becoming the fourth NFC team in a row to win the Super Bowl in a row, they are acting like it never happened. "We are not a dominating team," said coach Joe Gibbs. "We are not a dominating team," echoed Gibbs's players in unison, much to the coach's delight.

Gibbs claimed he hasn't even noticed a pattern of NFC teams treating AFC teams as though they were junior varsity kids at a scrimmage instead of champions in a Super Bowl. "I really feel like the teams are equal when they come in. I think teams just get a hot hand for that day," Gibbs said after the Redskins whipped the Denver Broncos, 42-10, in Super Bowl XX I.

The Redskins aren't busy making commercials or writing books. The Bears and Giants

set world records for exploitation after victories in Super Bowls XX and XXI, but nobody seems interested in the Redskins, which suits Gibbs just fine. When Gibbs was rated the No. 1 coach of all time in one published poll last season, Gibbs said he simply hasn't been around long enough to be considered along with Don Shula, Tom Landry, and Chuck Noll. When experts ranked the Redskins no higher than the fourth- or fifth-best team in the NFC at the end of last season, it was the kind of poll Gibbs could endorse without qualification. Let history hail the 15-1 49ers of 1984, the 15-1 Bears of 1985, and the 14-2 Giants of 1986. Let them gloat and write. Make the lowly 11-4 Redskins work and gripe.

"Several teams that won this right in front of us were more dominating teams," Gibbs said.

"We have to be a hard-working team. We have to do things right. We're not the kind of gifted team that can just go play and win by two or three touchdowns."

While other teams worry about players renegotiating their contracts, the Redskins went out and made an outsider, Walter Marshall, their highest-paid player and the highest-paid defensive player in the NFL. Bears coach Mike Ditka said his team just "wasn't good enough" after the Redskins knocked the Bears out of the playoffs for the second year in a row. But the Redskins turned around and said the same thing. The Redskins were good enough to beat the Bears, but not too good to ignore the chance to sign Marshall.

"The problem with the NFL is when you're on top, everything is geared to try [to] jerk the rug out from under you," Gibbs said. "Your schedule is the toughest, you draft last, and every team gets up to play you."

So the Redskins are pretending they are on the bottom. Marshall would have been the first player drafted out of the 1988 college crop according to most scouts. Marshall, who was rated better than Auburn's Aundray Bruce when Marshall came out of Florida in 1984. At age 26 and with four years experience and two trips to the Pro Bowl, he is clearly a better investment for the Redskins than anyone they might have drafted this spring.

"You've got to fight your guts out to get every player you can get," Gibbs said. "I think the only way to survive is to be aggressive. Fortunately, I work for an owner and general manager who are very aggressive about going after players."

Defensive players in particular have kept the NFC on top in recent years. The incredible quarterback class of 1983, which was drafted exclusively by the AFC, has yet to overcome the defenses built by the NFC. Denver's John Elway has lost two Super Bowls in a row. New England's Tony Eason lost the one before Miami's Dan Marino, Buffalo's Jim Kelly, the Jets' Ken O'Brien, and Kansas City's (now Pittsburgh's) Todd Blackledge have yet to get there.

"It's a different kind of football in the Super Bowl," Elway told the *Rocky Mountain News*. "I think it's a lot more slug-a-matic. Just beat each other up, run each other. We throw a lot more against each other in the AFC than they do in the NFC as a whole. If you look at the teams in the Super Bowl from the AFC, they've been primarily throwing teams. There hasn't been a great running team from the AFC in the Super Bowl since the Raiders."

Running and defense are two of the best explanations for NFC dominance. In the last four years, NFC teams have led in both categories. Defense and running usually go hand in hand. A team that can't run usually can't control the ball long enough to play effective defense. Together, running and defense often can combat a team—or a conference—that relies mostly on passing.

PREDICTIONS

WEST

- 1 New Orleans Saints
- 2 San Francisco 49ers
- 3 Los Angeles Rams
- 4 Atlanta Falcons

CENTRAL

- 1 Minnesota Vikings
- 2 Chicago Bears
- 3 Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- 4 Detroit Lions
- 5 Green Bay Packers

EAST

- 1 Washington Redskins
- 2 New York Giants
- 3 Philadelphia Eagles
- 4 Dallas Cowboys
- 5 Phoenix Cardinals

Wild Card Teams: Chicago Bears, New York Giants
Super Bowl Team: Washington Redskins

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

by **DON PIERSON**

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Dominance is the trait of only a few NFC teams. The AFC actually is more balanced, better attuned to the parity that the system promotes. The AFC has won or tied the interconference series each of the past five seasons, including 1987 when the AFC won 23, lost 22 and tied one. Nine of the 14 teams in the AFC had winning records, compared with only five in the NFC. But the NFC can argue it has more great teams. The San Francisco 49ers dominated 1987 in every statistic that didn't come with a Roman numeral. They couldn't get past the Minnesota Vikings in the playoffs. The Vikings couldn't get past the Chicago Bears in their own division. The five NFC playoff teams—Redskins, 49ers, Bears, Vikings, and New Orleans Saints—might have been the five best teams in football last year. Their record against AFC teams was 13-5. Take those games away and the AFC won the interconference matchups 18-9-1.

The NFC beat out the AFC for most of the top prospects in the draft. This is partly because three AFC teams—Buffalo, Indianapolis, and Seattle—chose to spend their draft choices last year to beef up their running and defense. The Bills traded for linebacker Cornelius Bennett, the Colts got running back Eric Dickerson, and the Seahawks took linebacker Brian Bosworth in the supplemental draft.

Out of the last college crop, the NFC landed more firsts than the AFC. Atlanta made Bruce the first defensive player drafted. Detroit made Miami safety Bennie Blades the first defensive back drafted after making Kansas City pay dearly to get the first defensive lineman, Nebraska's Neil Smith. Tampa Bay took the first offensive lineman, Wisconsin's Paul Gruber. The Rams took the first halfback, UCLA's Gaston Green, and the Bears took the first fullback, Stanford's Brad Muster. Philadelphia took the first tight end, Oklahoma's Keith Jackson.

The AFC got the first receiver when the Raiders landed Notre Dame's Tim Brown, but the NFC came away with four of the record six receivers drafted in the first round—South Carolina's Sterling Sharpe to Green Bay, Miami's Michael Irvin to Dallas, Arizona State's Aaron Cox to the Rams, and LSU's Wendell Davis to the Bears.

THE WEST This should be a rerun of last year's race between the 49ers and Saints, the two teams with the best records in football. If the Rams can get their revitalized passing attack in gear, they might have something to say about the outcome, but the 49ers and Saints remain the favorites. The Saints host the 49ers in the Superdome in the season opener in a game that could go a long way towards proving whether the Saints are for real.

The eyes of San Francisco will be focused closely on quarterback Joe Montana, who is coming off his greatest season but hasn't led his team to a playoff victory since Super Bowl XIX. The Rams are reloading with more speed on offense while their defense frays around the edges. The Falcons should win more than two games, but maybe no more than four.

THE CENTRAL Another two-team race should keep this division interesting most of the year. The Bears have dominated for four years with a 29-2 intradivision record and four straight titles. But they are playing for the first time since 1974 without Walter Payton. The loss of linebacker Wilber Marshall and internal



pickering over contracts makes this club appear headed for a slide.

The Vikings seem to be on the way up after the most surprising playoff performance of last season. A disappointing loss to the Redskins in the NFC title game should be enough to keep them hungry.

High draft choices over the last few years by Tampa Bay, Green Bay, and Detroit are bound to pay off sooner or later. While none of the three appears ready to challenge the top two yet, any one of them could play a role in who wins. The development of highly-touted quarterbacks Vinny Testaverde in Tampa Bay and Chuck Long in Detroit will determine how quickly the future arrives for the have-nots.

THE EAST From top to bottom, this is the toughest division in the NFC, so only one team might make it to the playoffs again. The Giants, only a year removed from a dominating championship, have the advantage of the so-called easier fifth-place schedule. If they can hold up on the offensive line, they have the talent and experience elsewhere to rebound all the way to the top. They host the champion Redskins in the opening Monday night game, so they have a chance to do to the Redskins what the Bears did to the Giants in the first game following their Super Bowl victory.

The Cowboys will rally around Herschel Walker and whomever plays quarterback to make life tough for the favorites. They are depending heavily on youngsters Michael Irvin on offense and Danny Noonan on defense to inject life into a franchise that is trying to avoid a third straight losing season.

The Eagles are desperate to win because owner Norman Braman has made it clear he will settle for nothing less than the playoffs. The pressure is on coach Buddy Ryan's defense, because the offense appears capable of holding its own with exciting quarterback Randall Cunningham.

The Cardinals will have at least 70,000 people who think they can win every game. Their

new Phoenix fans could play a significant role in urging the Cardinals to ignore their past as well as the hot sun.

The Redskins are the only team in the league that has not suffered a losing season since 1981, the year Joe Gibbs arrived as coach. Every team in the league has reached the playoffs at least once during that span, but none is as consistent as the Redskins. No other team has been able to create and maintain an edge as well as the Redskins, who even employ two special-teams' coaches. The addition of Wilber Marshall should inject an exciting element into a defense that already was far above average.

"I think the key to our team this year is the attitude," said general manager Bobby Beathard. "When you win a Super Bowl, most teams don't improve in the attitude area the next year. We're not going to be a better team just because of Wilber Marshall. We're going to be better only if the guys come back with something to prove."

1988 ALL-NFC TEAM

OFFENSE

- WR** Anthony Carter, Vikings, Jerry Rice, 49ers
- TE** Mark Bavaro, Giants
- T** Jim Covert, Bears, Gary Zimmerman, Vikings
- G** Bill Fralic, Falcons, Tom Newberry, Rams
- C** Jay Hilgenberg, Bears
- QB** Jim McMahon, Bears
- RB** Herschel Walker, Cowboys
- Timmy Smith, Redskins

DEFENSE

- E** Charles Mann, Redskins,
- Chris Doleman, Vikings
- T** Keith Milard, Vikings, Reggie White, Eagles
- LB** Carl Banks, Giants, Mike Singletary, Bears, Wilber Marshall, Redskins
- Pat Swilling, Saints
- CB** Don Griffin, 49ers, Everson Walls, Cowboys
- S** Joey Browner, Vikings, Ronnie Lott, 49ers
- PK** Morten Andersen, Saints
- P** Jim Arnold, Lions

NFC West

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Give the Saints credit. They paid their dues. Not only did they march in with their first winning season in 21 years, they celebrated their manhood with a 12-3 record (second only to the 49ers) and a nine-game winning streak (second to none). When they tumbled out of the playoffs with a 44-10 loss to the Vikings, it could hardly prevent owner Tom Benson from jumping with joy on the sidelines.

"One game should not detract from the accomplishments of the 1987 Saints," said coach Jim Mora. "This team did more, far more, than anyone gave them a chance to do. It is a credit to the players, the coaching staff, and the entire Saints' organization from the top down. And this is only the beginning. If we continue to work the way we worked last year we can again be a winning team and compete for a playoff spot."

But just how good are the Saints? Did they overachieve? When their most valuable player is the place-kicker, Morten Andersen, there is reason for suspicion. But there also is reason for honest optimism. The nucleus is good, young, and promising. Like their coach and unlike their owner, the Saints managed to keep their feet on the ground while all of New Orleans danced to the unfamiliar beat of victory.

"If you don't improve in this league, you can go quickly from the penthouse to the out-house. In one season," Mora said. Having just made the opposite trip, the Saints know what the coach means. If nothing else, the Vikings forced the Saints to focus hard on the future by wiping the impressive 1987 slate clean.

The emphasis in the draft was on offense to give their place-kicker some help. Andersen is the only player to have scored for the NFC in the Pro Bowl for the last two years. He also scored 121 of the Saints' 422 points in 1987 and is called by Saints' general manager Jim Finks, the NFL executive of the year, the best place-kicker he has ever seen.

Quarterback Bobby Hebert, paying the last six weeks on a sprained knee, led the club to a 10-2 record as the starter. He led the league in fewest interceptions for a full-time quarterback, with just nine, displaying the high-percentage strategy of his coach. His passer rating of 82.9 was the highest ever for a Saints' quarterback. With Dave Wilson backing up Hebert, the Saints have reliable and experienced help at the position. The Saints also drafted San Diego State's Todd Santos as a possible third quarterback to compete with last year's replacement star, John Fourcade. While the jury is still deliberating how good Hebert can be, it is wise to wait until he has the supporting cast every great quarterback can boast. That was addressed in the draft with the acquisition of Pitt running back Craig Heyward and Miami receiver Brett Perriman.

Heyward has the ability to end concern at running back, a Saints' strength the last two years until Rueben Mayes underwent knee surgery. Mayes's production had slipped from 47 yards a carry to 3.8 and the slack was taken up by Dalton Hilliard with 508 rushing yards and 23 catches. But serious knee surgery kept Mayes out of his second Pro Bowl and necessitated the drafting of Heyward, a

SAINTS 1987 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Andersen, 21 points on 37 extra points and 28 field goals. 1st
RUSHING—Mayes, 917 yards on 243 carries, 3.8 avg., 5 TDs. 2nd
PASSING—Hebert, 164 of 294 attempts for 2,119 yards and 15 TDs. 7th
RECEIVING—Martin, 44 receptions for 778 yards, 17.7 avg., 7 TDs. 8th
INTERCEPT—Waymer, 5 for 78 yards, 15.6 avg. 5th
SUTTON—4 for 68 yards, 13.6 avg. 6th
PUNT NG—Hansen, 52 points, 40.5 avg., longest 60 yards. 7th
PUNT RETURNS—Gray, 24 for 352 yards, 14.7 avg. 1st
KICKOFF RETURNS—Gray, 30 for 636 yards, 21.2 avg. 10th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 7 At Minnesota (N)
12 At Phoenix (A)
20 At Indianapolis (N)
27 PITTSBURGH

1988 SCHEDULE

		1987 SCORES
September	4 SAN FRANCISCO	22-24
	11 At Atlanta	38-0
	18 At Detroit	—
	25 TAMPA BAY	44-34
October	3 DALLAS (N)	—
	9 At San Diego	—
	16 At Seattle	—
	23 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	—
	30 LOS ANGELES RAMS	37-10
November	6 At Washington	—
	13 At Los Angeles Rams	31-14
	20 DENVER	—
	27 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (N)	23-14
December	4 At Minnesota	—
	11 At San Francisco	26-24
	19 ATLANTA	—

250-pound tailback when slim and trim. As if Heyward required blocking, the Saints also added Oklahoma fullback Lydel Carr in the fourth round to compete with incumbents Barry Word and Buford Jordan. Carr also is coming off knee surgery, but he is the kind of lead blocker and power runner who could help the Saints maintain their position as the No. 1 ball-control team in football.

Perriman has the speed to provide the deep threat at wide receiver the Saints lack. Although he played at Miami in the shadow of Michael Irvin, Perriman has big-league credentials and could contribute immediately. Eric Martin's 44 catches led the club last year and Mike Jones was a good possession receiver. Lonzell Hill had a decent rookie season, but nobody emerged as a burner who scared defenses. At tight end, the Saints have two productive dependable players in Hoby Brenner and John Tice. They will be joined by fifth-rounder Greg Scales of Wake Forest.

The offensive line depends largely on how much its largest player, left tackle Jim Dombrowski, can continue to improve. A surprise was the quick development of rookie Steve Trapilo into a starter at right guard. Joel Hillenberg got a job when Steve Korte was hurt and now Korte may move to left guard, where Brad Edelman made the Pro Bowl. The right tackle remains in the capable hands of Stan Brock. Experienced backups include Daren Gilbert and Chuck Commiskey.

The Saints were outstanding on defense last year, the real key to their success. They ranked fourth in the league in overall yardage allowed—third against the run and sixth against the pass. They gave up only 283 points, fifth-fewest in the league. They also

had the league's best takeaway giveaway ratio (plus 20) and tied for the league in takeaways with 48, including a league-high 30 interceptions. Mora will take a repeat performance in every category.

The return of the injured James Geathers should improve the pass rush, and if last year's No. 1 draft choice, Shawn Knight, can live up to his billing, the defensive line could be dominating. Knight missed training camp and contributed little all season. Starters Bruce Clark, Tony Elliott, and Jim Wilks had good years, and so did backup Frank Warren, a pass rusher with six sacks, high among linemen. The Saints added 300-pound Clemson nose tackle Tony Stephens in the third round.

Linebacking is the strength of the club, thanks to former JSFL inside linebackers Sam Mills and Vaughan Johnson. Although run-stopper Mills made the Pro Bowl, it was Johnson who led the club in tackles and was the most consistent player on the defense. Pro Bowl player Rickey Jackson and budding star Pat Swilling are two of the best unknown outside linebackers in football. Swilling led the club in sacks with 10½, Jackson had 9½. They are capably supported by backups Alvin Toies, James Haynes, and Joe Kohbrandt.

Young defensive backs Milton Mack and Michael Adams have a chance to make a contribution at cornerback, where starters Dave Waymer and Van Jakes sometimes had trouble stopping the big plays. Waymer made the Pro Bowl despite criticism and was the lead-

ing interceptor on the club with five. Second-year players Gene Atkins and Tori Cook will compete with Brett Maxie and Antonio Gibson for the starting safety jobs.

Andersen alone makes the Saints outstanding on special teams. He made 28 of 36 field goals and all 37 extra-point conversions. His nonreturnable kickoffs practically eliminate the need for coverage teams. Mel Gray led the league in punt returns and finished among the leaders in kickoff returns. Brian Hansen had 19 punts down inside the 20. Special teams contributed a club-record eight blocked kicks, three of which were returned for TDs.

SAINTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
40	Adams, Michael	CB	5-10	195	24	Arkansas St.
7	Andersen, Morten	K	6-2	221	28	Michigan St.
28	Atkins, Gene	DB	6-1	200	24	Florida A&M
83	Benson, Cliff	TE	6-4	240	27	Purdue
85	Brenner, Hoby	TE	6-4	240	29	JSC
67	Brock, Stan	T	6-8	292	30	Colorado
59	Campen, James	C	6-1	260	24	Tulane
75	Clark, Bruce	DE	6-3	275	30	Penn State
89	Clark, Robert	WR	5-11	175	23	N.C. Central
66	Commiskey, Chuck	G	6-4	290	30	Mississippi
70	Contr, Bill	F	6-5	270	27	Penn State
41	Cook, Tori	FS	5-11	188	24	Stanford
26	Dawsey, Stacey	WR	5-9	154	23	Indiana
72	Dombrowski, Jim	T	6-5	298	25	Virginia
63	Edelman, Brad	G	6-6	270	28	Missouri
99	Elliott, Tony	N	6-2	295	29	N. Texas St.
38	Evans, Vince	FB	5-10	216	25	N.C. State
11	Fourcade, John	QB	6-1	208	28	Mississippi
46	Gasper, Hoke	FB	5-1	230	29	LSU
97	Geathers, James	DE	6-7	290	28	Wichita State
27	Gibson, Antonio	SS	6-3	204	26	Cincinnati
77	Gilbert, Daren	T	6-6	295	25	Cal. Fullerton
37	Gray, Mel	RB	5-9	166	27	Purdue
10	Hansen, Brian	P	6-3	209	20	Sioux Falls
92	Haynes, James	CB	6-2	233	28	Miss. Valley
3	Kelley, Bobby	QB	6-4	215	28	NW La.
61	Hillenberg, Joel	OL	6-2	252	26	Iowa
8	Hill, Lonzell	WR	5-11	189	23	Washington
2	Hilliard, Dalton	RB	5-8	204	24	LSU
57	Jackson, Rickey	LB	6-2	243	30	Pittsburgh
22	Jakes, Van	CB	6-0	190	27	Kent State
53	Johnson, Vaughan	LB	6-3	235	26	N.C. State
86	Jones, Mike	WR	5-11	183	28	Tennessee St.
23	Jordan, Buford	FB	6-0	223	28	McNeese St.
78	Knight, Shawn	DE	6-6	288	24	Brigham Young
55	Kubikstrand, Joe	LB	6-4	242	25	Miami
60	Korte, Steve	C	6-2	260	28	Arkansas
24	Mack, Milton	CB	5	182	25	Alcorn St.
84	Martin, Eric	WR	6-1	207	27	LSU
39	Maxie, Brett	FS	6-2	194	26	Texas Southern
36	Mayes, Rueten	RB	5-11	200	25	Washington St.
51	Mills, Sam	LB	5-9	225	29	Montclair St.
88	Patterson, Mark	WR	6-2	190	27	Washington
25	Poe, Johnnie	CB	6-1	194	29	Missouri
35	Steele, Todd	FB	6-3	245	25	USC
56	Swilling, Pat	LB	6-3	242	24	Georgia Tech
69	Swoopes, Patrick	NT	6-4	280	24	Mississippi St.
82	Tice, John	TE	6-5	249	28	Maryland
54	Toies, Alvin	LB	6-1	227	25	Tennessee
65	Trapilo, Steve	G	6-5	281	24	Boston College
73	Warren, Frank	DE	6-4	280	29	Auburn
83	Waters, Mike	TE	6-2	230	26	San Diego St.
44	Waymer, Dave	CB	6-1	188	30	Noire Dame
94	Wilks, Jim	DE	6-5	266	30	San Diego St.
18	Wilson, Dave	QB	6-3	206	29	Illinois
34	Word, Barry	FB	6-2	220	24	Virginia

DRAFTES

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Heyward, Craig	RB	6-2	240	Pittsburgh
2	Perriman, Brett	WR	5-9	180	Miami
3	Stephens, Tony	NT	6-3	306	Clemson
4	Carr, Lydel	FB	6-0	22	Oklahoma
5	Scales, Greg	TE	6-3	250	Wake Forest
6	Taylor, Keith	DB	5-11	93	Illinois
6	Sims, Bob	OG	6-3	270	Florida
7	Forde, Brian	LB	6-2	220	Washington State
8	Derby, Glenn	OT	6-6	295	Wisconsin
9	Nunn, Clarence	DB	5-0	176	San Diego State
10	Sarantos, Todd	DB	6-1	205	San Diego State
10	Fizer, Vincent	LB	6-4	245	Southern
11	Couch, Gary	WR	5-9	175	Minnesota
12	Jurgensen, Paul	LB	6-5	241	Georgia Tech





JOE MONTANA

"Joe will have the most competition he's ever had in his career," Walsh said. "But, on the other hand, Joe's determined to deal with it, and will deal with it." Montana is worried about only one thing: "I don't want to get in a position where I think, if I make a bad play, I get pulled," he said.

So the 49ers are faced with the dilemma of having one of the game's all-time great quarterbacks—still relatively young at 32—and failing short of the Super Bowl in three straight attempts to return. Montana threw 31 touchdown passes and completed an astonishing 66.8 percent of his attempts in leading the league in passer rating last season. When DeBartolo discussed a possible trade with San Diego for Montana, Walsh apparently was taken by surprise and announced, "The 49ers are not shopping Joe Montana around."

Meanwhile, Young looked ready to play full-time after throwing four touchdown passes against Chicago when Montana got hurt and five touchdowns in the next two games as the



ROGER CRAIG

starter. For the season, he threw 10 touchdown passes and no interceptions. So the quarterbacking future of the 49ers can only be described as bright.

Jerry Rice was phenomenal in 1987. An encore even approaching his statistics would be unfair to expect. From start to finish, he was the league's player of the year. He caught a league-record 22 touchdown passes and ran for a 23rd. He set an NFL record by scoring on a pass reception in 13 consecutive games. Admirers are comparing Rice with the greatest receivers who ever played, and he is entering only his fourth season.

Yet the 49ers recognize the need for balance, so they traded their first-round draft choice to the Raiders for Dokie Williams. He is a speed receiver who became expendable after the Raiders drafted Notre Dame's Tim Brown. Dwight Clark is expected to retire, and Williams will compete with Mike Wilson, John Taylor, and Derrick Crawford on the other



STEVE YOUNG



FORTY-NINERS 1987 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Rice, 138 points on 23 TDs 1st
RUSHING—Craig, 815 yards on 215 carries 3.8 avg., 3 TDs 5th
PASSING—Montana, 266 of 398 attempts for 3,054 yards and 31 TDs 1st
RECEIVING—Craig, 68, receptions for 492 yards, 7.5 avg., 1 TD 2nd
INTERCEPTIONS—Lott, 5 for 62 yards, 12.4 avg. 8th—Gillin, 5 for 4 yards 0.2 avg. 0th
PUNTING—Rumager, 55 punts, 39.2 avg., longest 56 yards 1st
PUNT RETURNS—McLemore, 21 for 265 yards, 12.6 avg., 1 TD 2nd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Rodgers, 17 for 358 yards 21.1 avg. unranked

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 6 L.A. RAIDERS (N)
 13 At Denver (N)
 20 At San Diego (N)
 26 SEATTLE (N)

1988 SCHEDULE

		1987 SCORES
September	4 At New Orleans	24-22
	11 At New York Giants	41-21
	18 ATLANTA	35-7
	25 At Seattle	—
October	2 DETROIT	—
	9 DENVER	—
	16 At Los Angeles Rams	31-0
	24 At Chicago	4-0
	30 MINNESOTA	—
November	6 At Phoenix	34-28
	13 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	—
	21 WASHINGTON (N)	—
	27 At San Diego	—
December	4 At Atlanta	25-17
	11 NEW ORLEANS	24-26
	18 LOS ANGELES RAMS (N)	48-0

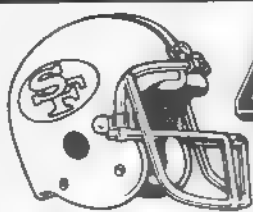
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

The 49ers were the undisputed champions of the National Football League in 1987. Unfortunately, the regular season ended and the playoffs stretched into 1988. For the 49ers to extend their current expectations into 1989, they plan a few changes.

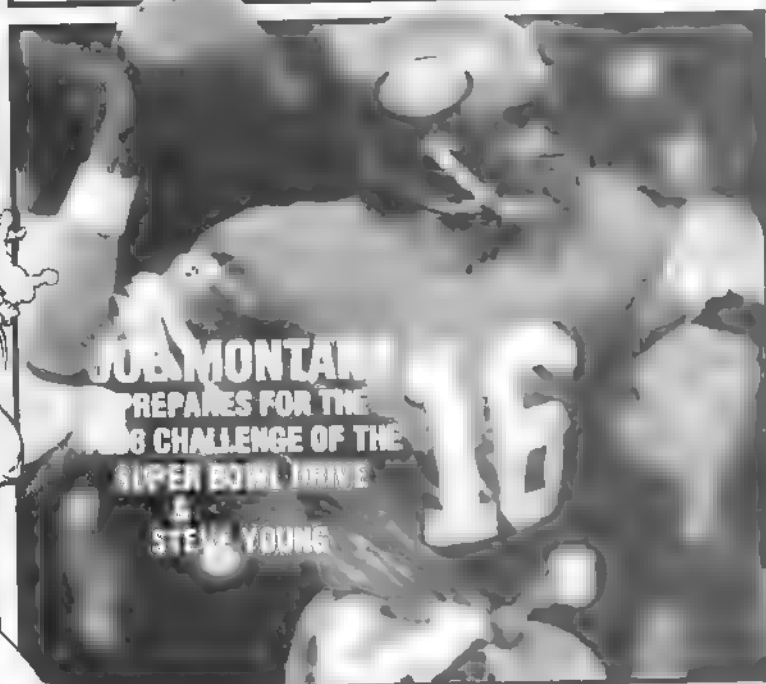
They have lost three straight playoff games since winning Super Bowl XIX. They have won 33 regular-season games in the last three years and made all kinds of money from generous owner Eddie DeBartolo Jr., but something happens when the going gets tough.

The 49ers of 1987 won more games than anyone else and finished first in offense and first in defense. They had the No. 1 passer in quarterback Joe Montana and the No. 1 scorer in receiver Jerry Rice. They scored the most points and gave up the third-fewest. They were tops in rushing offense and in passing defense. But they couldn't make it out of the brown back yard in the playoffs, losing to the wild-card Minnesota Vikings in round one.

Most disturbing, they are faced with a "quarterback controversy" in the frightening tradition of what have-you-done-for-me-lately Montana was yanked by coach Bill Walsh during the Minnesota loss and replaced by Steve Young. Incredibly, Montana has not led the 49ers to a touchdown in their three playoff losses since Super Bowl XIX. Walsh remains a Montana fan and was annoyed when inquiries about trading him were made public, yet the temptation to play Young is growing.



49ERS REPORT



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side At tight end, John Frank became more consistent as a receiver Pete Holohan, Ron Heller, and Brent Jones are backups

Of all the impressive statistics the 49ers compiled last year, the most surprising was their No. 1 ranking in rushing. Long known as a finesse passing team, the 49ers proved they can run with the best of them without ignoring the pass. They finished No. 2 in passing. The emergence of the rushing attack coinciding with the promotion of big fullback Tom Rathman to the starting lineup midway through the season. It enabled Roger Craig to switch from fullback to halfback, and the results were stunning. The running game catapulted from 10th in the league in 1985 and 1986 to first. Rathman simply knocked people down. Terrence Flagler and Doug DuBose got virtually no playing time as rookies, but should move ahead of the aging Joe Cribbs. Versatile Harry Sydney was a good reserve.

The offensive line underwent a complete re-vamping except for left tackle Bubba Paris, who may lose his job to Steve Wallace. Harris Barton, last year's No. 1 draft choice, replaced Keith Fahnhorst at right tackle and Bruce Collie and Jesse Sapoli ended up at guard, with Randy Cross replacing the injured Fred Quillian at center. Jeff Bregel drafted behind Barton last year, is coming off an injury and could assert himself at guard, where Guy McIntyre also is a factor.

The 49ers spent their top draft choices for defense. They used an extra second-round pick from the Raiders to land pass-rushing specialist Danny Stubbs from Miami. Then they used another second-rounder to take defensive lineman Pierce Holt from Angelo State. With their third, they took inside linebacker Bill Romanowski from Boston College. The emphasis clearly demonstrated where the 49ers

feel they are lacking. Defense got them to the Super Bowl in 1984 and it hasn't been as effective since, regardless of statistics.

Ends Jeff Stover and Dwaine Board and nose tackle Michael Carter form an adequate defensive line, but they haven't had a pure pass rusher since Fred Dean. Stubbs could fill that role if he can be as effective as he was in college. Despite his size (6-3, 250), Stubbs garnered 39½ sacks. Holt is another rookie with pass-rush capability. He is 26 years old and is suited more for tackle than end when the 49ers use their four-man front. Carter is as good a nose tackle as there is, and the 49ers want to see more out of backups Pete Kugler, Kevin Fagan, Larry Roberts, Charles Haley, Clyde Glover, and Doug Mikolas.

With Jim Fahnhorst and leading tackler Mike Walter inside and Riki Ellison returning from a broken arm, the 49ers need more outside than inside linebacking help, but Romanowski should have an immediate impact on special teams. Outside linebacker Keena Turner hopes to come back from knee surgery. Todd Shell and Milt McColl finished up on the outs de.

The secondary was the strong suit of the defense, with safeties Ronnie Lott and Jeff Fuller and cornerbacks Don Griffin and Tim McKyer all contributing outstanding seasons. Opposing quarterbacks completed less than 50 percent of their passes against this bunch, ably backed up by cornerbacks Tory Nixon and Eric Wright (depending on a groin injury) and safeties Carlton Williamson and Tom Hol-

moe Williamson and Wright are former Pro Bowl participants.

A shakeup in special teams is inevitable with the drafting of punter Barry Helton of Colorado in the fourth round. Max Runager ranked near the bottom of the league last season. Since Ray Wersching is 38, the 49ers also spent a draft choice (10th) on a place-kicker, Tim Foley of Georgia Southern. Wersching connected on 13 of 17 field goals last year with a long of 45 yards. Del Rodgers, Joe Cribbs, and Sydney returned kickoffs.



1985 DRAFT PICKS						
no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
79	Barton, Harris	T	6-4	280	24	North Carolina
76	Board, Dwaine	DE	6-5	248	32	N.C. A&T
65	Bregel, Jeff	G	6-4	280	24	Southern Cal
95	Carter, Michael	NT	6-2	285	28	SMU
69	Collie, Bruce	OL	6-2	275	26	Texas-Arlington
59	Cornelius, Darren	LB	6-1	227	28	Arizona St.
52	Cooper, George	LB	6-2	225	30	Michigan St.
58	Cousineau, Tom	LB	6-3	225	31	Ohio State
33	Craig, Roger	RB	6-0	224	29	Nebraska
83	Crawford, Derrick	WR	5-10	185	28	Memphis St.
28	Cribbs, Joe	RB	5-11	193	30	Auburn
51	Cross, Randy	OL	6-3	265	34	JCLA
57	Dean, Kevin	LB	6-1	235	23	TCU
25	DuBose, Doug	RB	5-11	190	24	Nebraska
50	Ellison, Riki	LB	6-2	225	28	Southern Cal
75	Fagan, Kevin	DE	6-3	260	25	Miami
55	Fahnhorst, Jim	LB	6-4	230	30	Minnesota
32	Flagler, Terrence	RB	6-0	200	24	Clemson
86	Frank, John	TE	6-3	225	26	Ohio State
49	Fuller, Jeff	S-LB	6-2	216	26	Texas A&M
11	Gagliano, Bob	QB	6-3	196	30	Utah State
93	Glover, Clyde	DE	6-6	280	28	Fresno State
29	Griffin, Don	CB	6-0	176	24	Middle Tenn. St.
54	Hadley, Ron	LB	6-2	240	25	Washington
94	Haley, Charles	DE	6-5	230	24	James Madison
89	Heller, Ron	TE	6-3	235	25	Oregon State
46	Holmoe, Tom	S	6-2	195	28	Brigham Young
88	Holohan, Pete	TE	6-4	235	29	Noire Dame
88	Jones, Brent	TE	6-4	230	25	Santa Clara
67	Kugler, Pete	OL	6-4	255	29	Penn. State
92	Lilly, Kevin	DE	6-4	265	25	Tulsa
42	Lott, Ronnie	S	6-0	200	29	Southern Cal
84	Margenau, Ken	WR	6-0	180	30	Stanford
53	McColl, Milt	LB	6-5	230	29	Stanford
62	McIntyre, Guy	G	6-3	265	27	Georgia
22	McKyer, Tim	CB	6-0	174	25	Texas-Arlington
97	Mikolas, Doug	NT	6-1	270	26	Portland St.
16	Montana, Joe	QB	6-2	195	32	Noire Dame
88	Nicholas, Calvin	WR	6-4	206	24	Grambling
20	Nixon, Tory	CB	5-11	186	26	San Diego St.
77	Paris, Bubba	T	6-6	306	28	Michigan
15	Paye, John	QB	6-3	205	23	Stanford
56	Quillen, Fred	C	6-5	266	32	Oregon
44	Rathman, Tom	FB	6-1	232	26	Nebraska
80	Rice, Jerry	WR	6-2	200	26	Miss. Valley St.
91	Roberts, Larry	DE	6-3	264	25	Alabama
4	Runager, Max	P	6-1	189	32	South Carolina
61	Sapoli, Jesse	OL	6-4	260	27	Hawaii
90	Shell, Todd	LB	6-4	225	26	Brigham Young
72	Stover, Jeff	DE	6-5	275	30	Oregon
24	Sydney, Harry	FB	6-0	217	29	Kansas
82	Taylor, John	WR	6-1	185	26	Delaware St.
60	Thomas, Chuck	C	6-3	280	26	Oklahoma
41	Thomas, Sean	DB	5-11	192	26	TCU
58	Turner, Keena	LB	6-2	222	30	Purdue
74	Wallace, Steve	T	6-5	276	24	Auburn
99	Waller, Michael	LB	6-3	238	28	Oregon
14	Wersching, Ray	PK	5-11	215	38	California
27	Williamson, Carlton	S	6-0	204	30	Pittsburgh
85	Wilson, Mike	WR	6-3	215	30	Washington St.
21	Wright, Eric	CB	6-1	185	29	Missouri
8	Young, Steve	DB	6-2	200	27	Brigham Young

1985 DRAFT PICKS						
rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
2	Stubbs, Daniel	DE	6-3	250	25	Miami
2	Holt, Pierce	DT	6-4	274	24	Angelo State
3	Romanowski, Bill	LB	6-3	227	24	Boston College
4	Helton, Barry	P	6-4	190	24	Colorado
7	Bryant, Kevin	LB	6-1	219	24	Delaware State
8	Clarkson, Larry	DT	6-7	297	24	Montana
9	Bonner, Brian	LB	6-2	221	24	Minnesota
10	Foley, Tim	PK	5-10	225	24	Georgia Southern
11	Brooks, Terrence	DB	5-11	193	24	Texas A&M
12	Mira, George	LB	6-0	231	24	Miami

LOS ANGELES RAMS

After losing Eric Dickerson, the Rams have added flash and dash for 1988. Gaston Green, Aaron Cox, Anthony Newman, and Willie Anderson were their first four picks in the first two rounds of a draft that will shape their future. They hope they drafted substance as well as style. Green is a breakaway back, Cox and Anderson are quick little receivers, and Newman is a safety.

One thing is certain: The Rams and their faithful will be able to tell quickly whether the foursome can contribute. None are projects like 1986 No. 1 choice Mike Schaad or 1987 pick Donald Evans. Schaad might still be a guard or tackle. Evans switched from defensive end to fullback. The Rams can't afford to wait on their 1988 prospects. They need their contributions immediately.

Their 1987 season collapsed in a series of foibles befitting a franchise that plays in the shadow of Disney. After interrupting a disastrous 1-7 start with a 5-0 streak, the Rams lost their last two, including a humiliating 48-0 closer to the 49ers in the first-ever losing season for coach John Robinson. This is a team still in the throes of an identity crisis following the trade of "franchise player" Dickerson to Indianapolis on, appropriately, Halloween.

Robinson tried to retool his run-oriented offense by hiring San Diego passing guru Ernie Zampese to tutor quarterback Jim Everett. Not much clicked until midseason and the Rams finished 27th in the league in passing. This is a big year for Everett, who has the system under his belt and Green, Cox, and Anderson to help him execute it. All three rookies should fit in as soon as they get uniforms to fit. Everett came with high expectations at a high price in a 1986 trade. His 1987 statistics do nothing to support his reputation as a talented, strong-armed, big-play leader. His passer rating of 68.4 put him 11th in the NFC. But there was more doubt about Everett's supporting cast than there was about Everett, who will be backed up by Hugh Millen and Steve Dils.

Charles White led the league in rushing in one of the great comeback stories in sports. The forgotten former Heisman Trophy winner, found wandering in August in a field and carrying a trashcan lid, admitted a cocaine relapse and returned to the team under the condition he be tested daily for drug use. With Robinson sticking by him, White responded with 1,374 yards, outgaining Dickerson. The yardage was only four short of his six-year career total entering the season.

Despite White's achievement, the Rams added UCLA's Green to pep up the running attack. A big back (besides Evans) to challenge veteran Mike Guman is also on Robinson's wish list. The Rams could have had their choice of big backs in the draft, but chose Green because of his speed. Some teams think Green's injury history will relegate him to part-time duty, but his talent is unquestioned and no coach in the NFL knows him better than Robinson, who watched him grow up. The Rams drafted a second runner in Missouri's Robert Delpino in the fifth round, but he is a former receiver, not the big-back type.

Wide receivers Henry Ellard and Ron Brown were not the consistent deep threats the Rams expected, even though Ellard caught 51 passes. Brown retired to return to track, leaving the club with a bigger need at receiver than they thought. Cox is a gifted player with



RAMS 1987 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Lansford, 87 points on 36 extra points and 17 field goals. 3rd
RUSHING—White, 1,374 yards on 324 carries, 4.2 avg., 11 TDs. 1st
PASSING—Everett, 162 of 302 attempts for 2,064 yards and 10 TDs. 11th
RECEIVING—Ellard, 51 receptions for 799 yards, 15.7 avg., 3 TDs. 8th
INTERCEPTIONS—Irvin, 2 for 47 yards, 23.5 avg., 1 TD. 38th
Gray, 2 for 35 yards, 17.5 avg. 42nd
Cromwell, 2 for 26 yards, 14.0 avg. 46th
PUNTING—Hatcher, 76 punts, 41.3 avg., longest 62 yards. 4th
PUNT RETURNS—Ellard, 15 for 107 yards, 7.1 avg. unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Brown, 27 for 581 yards, 31.5 avg. 1 TD. 8th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July 30 Cincinnati (Hall of Fame Game at Canton, OH)
August 3 DENVER (N)
13 SAN DIEGO (N)
20 HOUSTON (N)
26 At San Diego (N)

1988 SCHEDULE

Month	Date	Opponent	Score
September	4	at Green Bay	37-16
	11	DETROIT	—
	18	at Los Angeles Raiders	—
	25	at New York Giants	—
October	2	PHOENIX	—
	9	at Atlanta	20-24
	16	SAN FRANCISCO	10-31
	23	SEATTLE	—
November	30	at New Orleans	10-37
	6	at Philadelphia	—
	13	NEW ORLEANS	14-31
	20	SAN DIEGO	—
December	27	at Denver	—
	5	CHICAGO (N)	—
	11	ATLANTA	33-0
	18	at San Francisco (N)	0-48



the ability to run good routes and get open quickly, a requirement in today's passing game. Anderson is a deep threat even though not quite so fast. Neither is very big.

Tight end was a problem that might be solved by the addition of former Patriot Greg Batty. The Rams let starter David Hill go after Damone Johnson caught 21 passes.

The offensive line is traditionally a strength of the Rams and should continue that way despite the retirement of guard Dennis Harrah following his sixth Pro Bowl. His spot is slated for Duval Love, a fourth-year man. Left guard Tom Newberry is expected to join the Ram parade to the Pro Bowl. The third-year man has justified the Rams making him a second-round draft choice from small Wisconsin-La-Crosse. Tackles Irv Pankey and Jackie Slater are solid bookends mainly responsible for the Rams allowing an NFC-low 25 sacks. Slater is an all-star as is center Doug Smith. Backups are Robert Cox, Tony Slaton, and Chad Gary.

Jeter was the Rams' most effective pass rusher again last year with seven sacks in a part-time role. But he is 33, not a good sign for the line. Shawn Miller and Doug Reed are the regular ends with Greg Meisner on the nose. Miller's six sacks led the starters. With Alvin Wright and Fred Stokes the only backups besides Jeter, the Rams drafted Illinois' Mike Piel, Wyoming's Jeff Knapton, and Montana's Pat Foster in hopes of finding somebody in the late rounds who can assist.

The Rams are more comfortable at line-backer with inside starters Jim Collins and Carl Ekern and outside men Mel Owens and

Mike Wilcher. Collins led the club in tackles, with 98, 36 more than his nearest teammate Ekern is a leader who is 34 years old. To protect against Ekern's age and Collins's injuries the Rams made Purdue's Fred Strickland their third and final pick (47th) in the second round. Strickland had more tackles than Ohio State's Chris Spielman last year as he led the Big Ten. Behind the starters, the Rams also have Norwood Vann, Larry Keim, Richard Brown, Kevin Greene, and Mike McDonald.

The secondary is in limbo. Cornerback LeRoy Irvin has requested a trade after criticizing the team's salary structure. Cornerback Jerry Gray went to the Pro Bowl last year, but that doesn't mean the Rams will be willing to dump Irvin. Newman was drafted to shore up the safety position, where veteran Nolan Cromwell is 33 and Johnnie Johnson is coming off a broken arm. Michael Stewart, Mickey Sutton, Clifford Hicks, and Frank Watelet are backups who will be joined by fifth-rounder James Washington of UCLA. Newman played everywhere in Oregon's secondary and some scouts think he can play cornerback. Other

scouts think he is a better baseball player. He has been drafted as an outfielder.

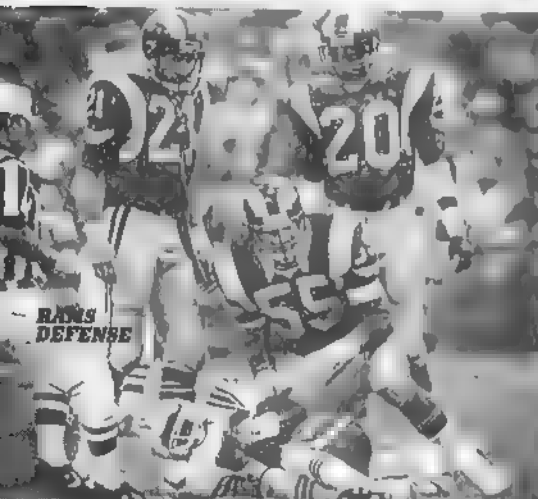
Punter Dale Hatcher recovered from a poor showing in 1986 to average 41.3 yards and net an impressive 35.6. Place-kicker Mike Lansford made 17 of 21 field goals. Brown was one of only five players to return a kickoff for a touchdown last season. Although Brown's potential as a football player has been questioned, his speed is something the Rams will miss if he makes good on plans to continue a career in track. Elard and Hicks shared punt-return duties. Cox could contribute here, but the hope is he will be too busy helping elsewhere.

RAMS VETERAN ROSTER

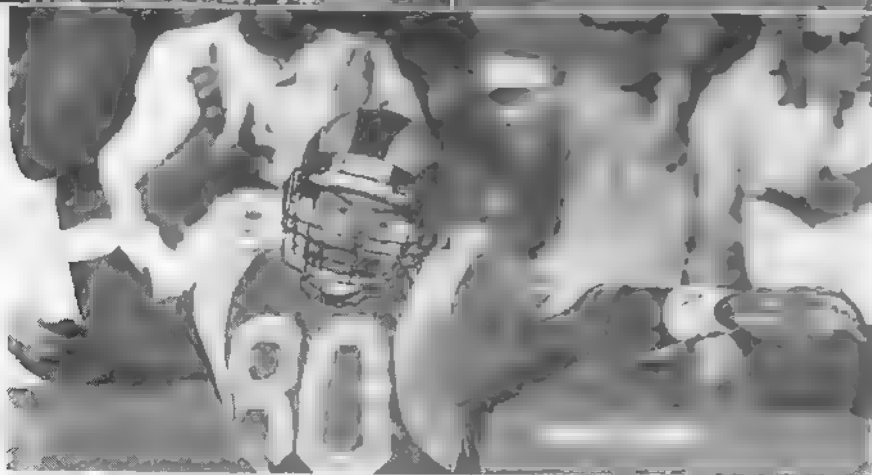
no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
57	Barlett, Doug	LB	6-2	250	25	N. Illinois
84	Baty, Greg	TE	6-5	241	24	Stanford
42	Bell, Greg	RB	5-10	210	26	No. Dame
92	Brown, Richard	LB	6-3	240	23	San Diego St.
50	Collins, Jim	LB	6-2	230	30	Syracuse
72	Cox, Robert	T	6-5	268	25	UCLA
21	Cromwell, Nolan	S	6-1	200	33	Kansas
8	Dits, Steve	QB	6-1	191	33	Stanford
55	Ekern, Carl	LB	6-3	222	34	San Jose St.
80	Ellard, Henry	WR	5-11	175	27	Fresno St.
87	Embree, Jon	TE	6-1	229	23	Colorado
34	Evans, Donald	FB	6-2	256	24	Winn. Salem St.
11	Everett, Jim	QB	6-5	212	25	Purdue
35	Francis, Jon	RB	5-11	207	24	Boise State
25	Gray, Jerry	CB	6-0	185	26	Texas
91	Greene, Kevin	LB	6-3	238	26	Auburn
44	Gurnan, Mike	FB	6-2	218	30	Penn. State
60	Harrah, Dennis	G	6-5	265	35	Miami
5	Hatcher, Dale	P	6-2	200	25	Clemson
38	Helmuth, Lakel	RB	5-11	192	23	Bingham Young
28	Hicks, Clifford	CB	5-10	188	24	Oregon
83	House, Kevin	WR	6-1	185	31	S. Illinois
47	Irvin, LeRoy	CB	5-11	184	31	Kansas
59	Jeter, Mark	LB	6-3	232	28	Washington
77	Jeter, Gary	DE	6-4	260	33	USC
86	Johnson, Damone	TE	6-4	230	26	Cal Poly SLO
20	Johnson, Johnnie	S	6-1	183	32	Texas
52	Keim, Larry	LB	6-4	226	24	Texas A&M
1	Lansford, Mike	PK	6-0	190	30	Washington
67	Love, Duval	G	6-3	280	25	UCLA
90	McDonald, Mike	LB	6-1	235	30	USC
24	McGee, Buford	RB	6-0	206	28	Mississippi
69	Meisner, Greg	NT	6-3	265	29	Pittsburgh
12	Miller, Hugh	QB	6-5	216	25	Washington
98	Miller, Shawn	DE	6-4	255	27	Utah State
65	Newberry, Tom	G	6-2	279	26	Wisc. LaCrosse
22	Newsome, Vince	S	6-1	179	27	Washington
58	Owens, Mel	LB	6-2	224	30	Michigan
75	Pankey, Irv	T	6-5	280	30	Penn. State
93	Reed, Doug	DE	6-3	250	28	San Diego St.
82	Richardson, Craig	WR	5-11	189	25	E. Washington
76	Schad, Mike	G	6-5	290	25	Queen's (Can.)
78	Slater, Jackie	T	6-4	275	34	Jackson State
61	Slaton, Tony	C	6-3	265	27	USC
96	Smith, David	LB	6-7	230	23	N. Arizona
56	Smith, Doug	C	6-3	260	32	Bowling Green
23	Stewart, Michael	S	5-11	195	23	Fresno State
65	Stokes, Fred	DE	6-3	262	24	Geo. Southern
49	Sutton, Mickey	CB	5-8	165	26	Montana
32	Tyrrell, Tim	FB	6-1	201	27	N. Illinois
51	Vann, Norwood	LB	6-1	237	26	E. Carolina
73	Walker, Jeff	T	6-4	295	25	Memphis St.
41	Watelet, Frank	S	6-0	190	30	Kansas
33	White, Charles	RB	5-10	190	30	USC
54	Wilcher, Mike	LB	6-3	235	28	N. Carolina
99	Wright, Alvin	OT	6-2	265	27	Jacksonville
88	Young, Michael	WR	6-1	185	26	UCLA

DRAFTIES

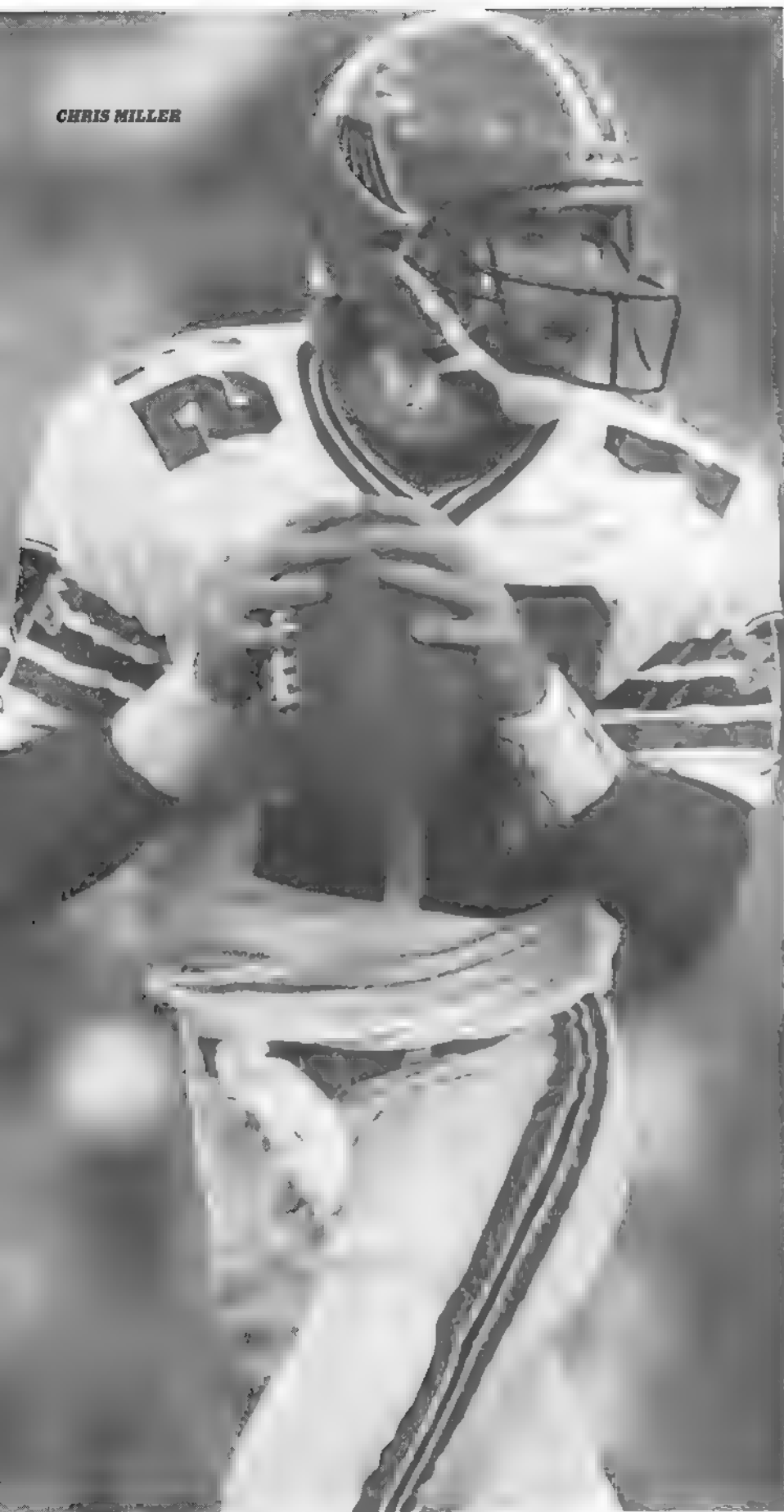
rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Green, Gaslon	HB	5-10	194	UCLA
1	Cox, Alan	WR	5-9	175	Arizona State
2	Newman, Anthony	S	6-0	200	Oregon
2	Anderson, Willie	WR	5-11	167	UCLA
2	Strickland, Fred	LB	6-2	244	Purdue
3	Piel, Mike	DT	6-4	256	Illinois
3	Dolpino, Robert	RB	5-11	201	Missouri
5	Washington, James	QB	6-1	191	UCLA
5	Jones, Keith	RB	5-9	186	Nebraska
6	Knapton, Jeff	DT	6-5	240	Wyoming
8	Franklin, Darryl	WR	5-10	186	Washington
9	Foster, Pat	OT	6-5	245	Montana
10	Mullin, R.C.	OT	6-5	310	St. Louis
12	Beathard, Jeff	WR	5-9	190	Southern Oregon



JIM COLLINS



CHRIS MILLER



ATLANTA FALCONS

It would be virtually impossible for the Falcons to be any worse than they were last year. For that reason alone, optimism is allowed if not entirely warranted. They finished 28th in offense and 28th in defense. They ranked last in 17 statistical areas, including points scored and points allowed, the first time that has happened since the 1971 Buffalo Bills.

The leading sacker was Buddy Moor, a replacement player who returned to his job as a plumber in Lexington, Ky., after the strike. He had four sacks, not bad for a plumber and great for a Falcon. Their top draft choice, quarterback Chris Miller, wasn't signed until October 30 and then threw nine interceptions in 10 quarters after he got into the lineup.

The beat goes on. The 3-12 record was the club's third 12-loss season in four years. When they broke into December with a 21-10 victory over the Cowboys in Dallas, the Cowboys labeled it the nadir of the franchise's history. So, to rid themselves of memories, the Falcons cut quarterback Dave Archer, who had started the season, receivers Charlie Brown and Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, and linebacker Reggie Wilkes. That was immediately after the season. Others would follow.

To underscore the seriousness of their problems, they drafted two linebackers and a tight end in the top 56 choices in the draft: Auburn's Aundray Bruce, USC's Marcus Cotton, and Ohio State's Alex Higdon are not expected to turn coach Marion Campbell's bunch around in 1988, but they are necessary building blocks for the future, which still seems a few years away.

In the first season of his second tenure in Atlanta, Campbell didn't know whether to go with a one-back or a two-back offense and he couldn't decide between a 3-4 and a 4-3 defense. Players usually determine such strategy and Campbell had 26 players miss a combined 145 games because of injury.

FALCONS 1987 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Luckhurst, 44 points on 17 extra points and 9 field goals. 15th
RUSHING—Riggs, 875 yards on 203 carries, 4.3 avg., 2 TDs. 4th
PASSING—Campbell, 136 of 260 attempts for 1,728 yards and 11 TDs. 12th
RECEIVING—Dixon, 38 receptions for 600 yards, 16.7 avg., 5 TDs. 24th
INTERCEPTIONS—Butler, 4 for 48 yards, 12.0 avg. 12th
PUNTING—Donnelly, 61 punts, 44.0 avg., longest 63 yards. 1st
PUNT RETURNS—Johnson, 21 for 168 yards, 8.0 avg. 10th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Stamps, 24 for 660 yards, 27.5 avg., 1 TD. 1st

1987 SCHEDULE

August 6 at New England (N)
13 KANSAS CITY (N)
20 TAMPA BAY (N)
27 Washington (at Birmingham, AL, N)

1987 SCHEDULE			1987 SCORES
September	4	at Detroit	13-30
	11	NEW ORLEANS	0-38
	18	at San Francisco	7-35
	25	at Dallas	21-10
October	2	SEATTLE	
	9	LOS ANGELES RAMS	24-20
	16	at Denver	—
	23	NEW YORK GIANTS	—
	30	at Philadelphia	—
November	6	GREEN BAY	—
	13	SAN DIEGO	—
	20	at Los Angeles Raiders	—
	27	TAMPA BAY	10-48
December	4	SAN FRANCISCO	17-25
	11	at Los Angeles Rams	0-33
	18	at New Orleans	—

Meanwhile, owner Rankin Smith is coping with attendance that also ranked 28th in the league, not helped when all three strike replacement games were played in Atlanta. Things were so bad that Smith took the novel approach of firing players rather than the coaches. Campbell is too nice a guy to finish last and also get fired in his first season back. His challenge is to erase 1987 because there was nothing there on which to build.

Miller was the last of four quarterbacks who saw action last year, and the Falcons hope he is the last for years to come. "Our thinking will now be centered around Chris," Campbell said. "He's got a great arm, a good touch on the ball, he's mobile, and he's tough." Scott Campbell and Erik Kramer are Miller's backups. Both played more than Miller last year.

Miller's receivers are small but fast. Stacey Bailey, Floyd Dixon, and Aubrey Matthews all averaged more than 16 yards per catch, but none is heavier than 170 pounds. The Falcons like Smurfs because they drafted two more in the sixth and seventh rounds taking trail George Thomas of Nevada-Las Vegas and Michael Haynes of Northern Arizona. Dixon led all NFC receivers as a rookie in 1986 and was solid again in 1987 with 36 catches, five for touchdowns. He is the tall guy in the group at 6-1, although second-year man Russell Hairston looks like a giant at 6-4, 193. Joey Jones (5-8, 165) comes off injured reserve.

Last year, the Falcons were so frequently

behind they didn't have a chance to run. Still, Gerald Riggs made his third Pro Bowl and accounted for 1,074 yards rushing and receiving. With 5,407 yards in four years, Riggs is behind only Eric Dickerson in yards gained in that span. With Kenny Flowers, John Settle, and Larry Emery all entering their second seasons after promising debuts, Campbell has the option of going with two backs. Little Sylvester Stamps is a good third-down back with hands and speed.

In the one-back set, the Falcons use two tight ends, one called the H-back. Ken Whisenhunt played the extra spot until he sat out the final five games with a shoulder injury. Arthur Cox is a good blocker at tight end who has also caught 11 passes. The addition of Higdon gives Campbell a big, versatile prospect who can run very well for his 6-5, 252-pound frame.

"We ask these guys to do a lot of blocking, but we'd like to see someone emerge as a big-play-type receiver to give the offense even more diversification," Campbell said.

The offensive line boasts guard Bill Fralic who may be the most dominating blocker in football. Left tackle Mike Kenn's still solid, but the other three spots are open for business among centers Wayne Radloff and Jamie Dukes, guards John Scully and Jeff Kiewel, and tackles Brett Miller and Leonard Mitchell.

The defensive line of high draft choices Rick Bryan, Mike Gann, and Tony Casillas had only 4½ sacks. Casillas and Bryan missed a month each with injuries. "It's a glaring fact that our pass rush needs to improve," Campbell admitted.

Campbell's preference for the 3-4 was underscored by adding linebackers Bruce and Cotton, who have the speed and pass rush capability to contribute immediately. Falcon linebackers—Tim Green, Jojo Costello, John Rade, and Joe Williams last year—have recorded only six sacks in the last two seasons. Jessie Tuggle and Michael Reid are expected to join the scramble when this year's new jobs are distributed.

The secondary will welcome the return of free safety Bret Clark, who broke his leg in the 1987 opener. Without much of a pass rush, this group gets tested regularly. Tim Gordon

and Robert Moore finished at safety and Bobby Butler and Scott Case are the corners. Fifth-round draft choice Charles Dmy of Nevada-Las Vegas, David Croudp, and Elbert Shelley will challenge for jobs. "I'm counting on this group to turn it up a notch and really start making big plays consistently," Campbell said.

Stamps is the NFL's leading kick returner. The Falcons hope he doesn't have so many chances. Rick Donnelly led the league in punting. But "White Shoes" will be missed for his punt returns, and the coverage teams finished 23rd and 24th in the league. Compared with other categories, that was cause for celebration. But the Falcons want more legitimate cheers this year.



GERALD RIGGS



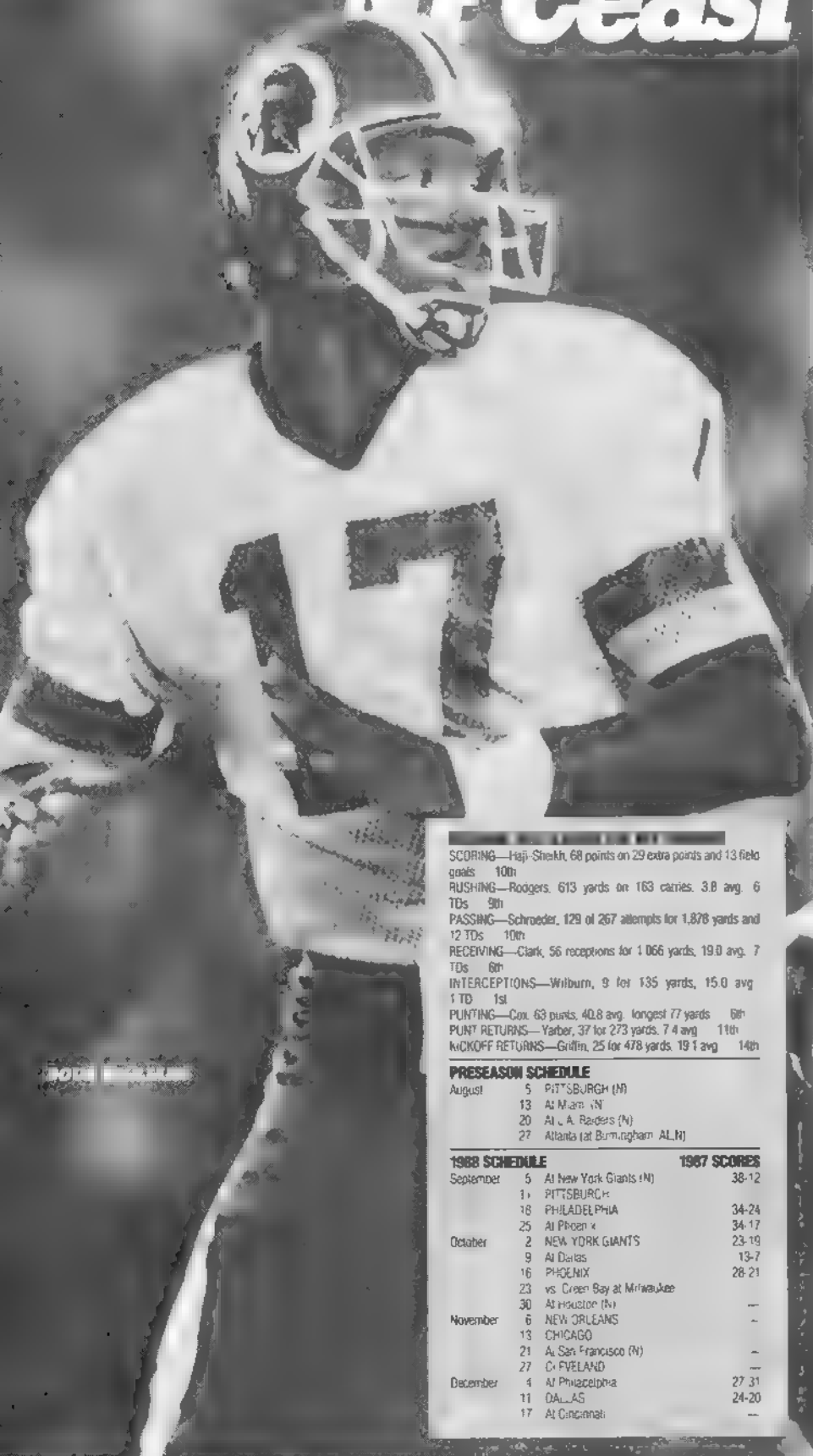
BOBBY BUTLER

BILL FRALIC

FALCONS ROSTER						
no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
47	Bacanek, Rick	RB	5-8	217	26	Maryland
82	Bailey, Stacey	WR	6-1	157	28	San Jose St.
93	Bohm, Ron	DE	6-3	253	24	Illinois
98	Brown, Greg	DE	6-5	265	31	Kansas State
77	Bryan, Rick	DE	6-4	265	26	Oklahoma
23	Bullock, Bobby	CB	5-11	175	29	Florida St.
10	Campbell, Scott	QB	6-0	195	26	Purdue
95	Carlier, James	G	6-3	260	25	Ga. Southern
25	Case, Scott	CB	6-0	178	26	Oklahoma
75	Casillas, Tony	NT	6-3	280	25	Oklahoma
28	Clark, Bret	S	6-3	198	26	Nebraska
56	Costello, Jojo	LB	6-3	244	28	Central CT St.
30	Croudp, David	CB	5-8	183	29	San Diego St.
86	Dixon, Floyd	WR	6-1	170	24	Stephen F. Austin
3	Donnelly, Rick	P	5-11	190	26	Wyoming
64	Dukes, Jamie	G	6-1	278	24	Florida State
24	Emery, Larry	RB	5-9	195	24	Wisconsin
39	Everett, Major	RB	5-10	218	28	Miss. Coll.
48	Flowers, Kenny	RB	6-0	210	24	Clemson
79	Fralic, Bill	G	6-5	260	26	Pittsburgh
76	Gann, Mike	DE	6-5	275	25	Notre Dame
41	Gordon, Tim	S	6-0	188	23	Tulsa
99	Green, Tim	LB	6-2	245	25	Syracuse
66	Hinson, Billy	G	6-1	278	25	Florida
21	Hull, Charles	CB	5-11	195	25	Presbyterian
68	Jackson, Lawrence	G	6-1	275	24	Presbyterian
84	Jones, Joey	WR	5-8	165	26	Alabama
78	Kenn, Mike	T	6-7	277	32	Michigan
33	Knight, Leander	DB	6-1	193	25	Michigan St.
14	Kramer, Erik	QB	6-0	192	24	N.C. St.
52	Kravak, Rich	LB	6-2	230	27	Pittsburgh
	Lavette, Robert	RB	5-11	190	23	Journal Tech
18	Lickbush, Mick	K	6-2	183	30	California
83	Matthews, Aubrey	WR	5-7	165	26	Delta State
40	Meyers, Eddie	RB	5-9	210	29	New
87	Middleton, Ron	TE	6-2	252	23	Auburn
63	Miller, Brett	T	6-7	300	30	Iowa
12	Miller, Chris	DB	6-2	195	23	Oregon
73	Mitchell, Leonard	T	6-7	295	30	Houston
34	Moore, Robert	S	5-11	190	24	Northwestern St.
67	Mraz, Mark	DE	6-4	255	23	Utah State
58	Rade, John	LB	6-1	240	28	Boise State
55	Radloff, Wayne	C	6-5	277	27	Georgia
95	Reid, Michael	LB	6-2	226	24	Wisconsin
42	Riggs, Gerald	RB	6-1	232	28	Arizona St.
61	Scully, John	G	6-6	270	30	Notre Dame
44	Settle, John	RB	5-9	207	23	Appalachian
37	Shelley, Elbert	S	5-11	180	24	Arkansas St.
29	Stamps, Sylvester	RB	5-7	171	27	Jackson State
64	Straubers, Tom	DL	6-4	265	27	Jackson State
58	Tuggle, Jessie	LB	5-11	225	23	Valdosta St.
45	Whisenhunt, Ken	TE	6-3	240	26	Georgia Tech
54	Williams, Joel	LB	6-1	227	32	Wis. La Crosse
66	Young, Mitchell	DE	6-4	260	26	Arkansas State

DRAFTED						
rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
1	Bruce, Aundray	LB	6-5	236		Auburn
2	Cotton, Marcus	LB	6-3	214		Southern Cal.
3	Higdon, Alex	TE	6-5	252		Ohio State
5	Dmy, Charles	CB	6-0	168		Nevada-Las Vegas
6	Thomas, George	WR	5-11	164		Nevada-Las Vegas
6	Hoover, Houston	OG	6-3	262		Jackson State
7	Haynes, Michael	WR	6-2	195		Northern Arizona
8	Brown, Phillip	LB	6-3	230		Alabama
9	Primus, James	RB	5-11	195		JCLA
10	Clayton, Stan	OT	6-3	277		Penn. State
11	Milling, James	WR	5-9	156		Maryland
12	Wiley, Carter	DB	6-2	216		Virginia Tech

NFC East



WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Joe Gibbs is worried, so all must be well. "What I worry most about is our division," said the coach of the world champion Redskins. "The Giants will be roaring, and they have a fifth-place schedule. But I think every team in our division is capable of winning it."

Including the Redskins. Especially the Redskins. They won last year and added Wilber Marshall, who is probably the fastest, most versatile linebacker in football. With their top draft choice in the second round the Redskins added a place-kicker, Chip Lohmiller. That means this is a team without gaping holes to fill. A place-kicker is no more than a luxury for most teams. For the Redskins, it is icing on the cake.

The Redskins have proven quarterbacks, receivers, and runners, plus a defense that can shut down John Elway. But what makes them the favorites again is their offensive line, specifically tackles Mark May and Joe Jacoby. Gibbs might have good reason to worry about NFC East rivals, but none of them has a pair of offensive tackles as good as May and Jacoby. Since nobody can win without protecting the passer, May and Jacoby are good enough reasons to give the Redskins the edge in a division that is the NFC's most competitive from top to bottom. The Giants could have two rookies starting at offensive tackle. The Eagles and Cowboys have youngsters, too. Only the Cardinals compare to the Redskins at the position.

Gibbs also has depth at quarterback that none of his division rivals can match. With Doug Williams and Jay Schroeder, he has two proven winners, either one of whom could still bring a trade bonanza if an offer is there. In third-year man Mark Rypien they have a prospect "who has shown all the promise in the world. We definitely want to see him play a little this preseason," Gibbs said. And in sixth-round draft choice Stan Humphries of Northeast Louisiana they think they have another quarterback of the future. "He was our top-rated quarterback in this draft," said general manager Bobby Beathard. People listen when Beathard speaks. "He's an exciting quarterback. He's a gunner. He's got the big arm."

Williams won the job for the playoffs and solidified it with his incredible second quarter in the Super Bowl. He is a big-pay quarterback who stunned opponents by the way he stood in the pocket. It was such a different style from his days in Tampa Bay, when he was so mobile. Williams said it didn't take a genius to understand why. In Tampa Bay, he was forced to run. His offensive line didn't give him a choice. Combining his regular season with the playoffs, Williams threw 18 touchdown passes and only 7 interceptions, the kind of ratio that would rank him among the top quarterbacks in the league. Arthroscopic knee surgery in March was described as routine and shouldn't delay his start.

Schroeder was a victim of uncharacteristic "gut feelings" by Gibbs when he was replaced in two games that were still in doubt. Ordinarily, Gibbs is very hesitant to change in midstream. Schroeder remains relatively inexperienced. Last year was his second full season. He is only 27.

With Art Monk, Gary Clark, and Ricky Sanders, the Redskins are deep at wide receiver.

SCORING—Haji-Sheikh, 68 points on 29 extra points and 13 field goals. 10th
RUSHING—Rodgers, 613 yards on 163 carries, 3.8 avg. 6 TDs. 9th
PASSING—Schroeder, 129 of 267 attempts for 1,876 yards and 12 TDs. 10th
RECEIVING—Clark, 56 receptions for 1,066 yards, 19.0 avg. 7 TDs. 6th
INTERCEPTIONS—Wiltburn, 9 for 135 yards, 15.0 avg. 1 TD. 1st
PUNTING—Cox, 63 punts, 40.8 avg., longest 77 yards. 6th
PUNT RETURNS—Yarber, 37 for 273 yards, 7.4 avg. 11th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Griffin, 25 for 478 yards, 19.1 avg. 14th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 5 PITTSBURGH (N)
 13 At Miami (N)
 20 At L.A. Raiders (N)
 27 Atlanta (at Birmingham, AL, N)

1988 SCHEDULE

September 5 At New York Giants (N)
 11 PITTSBURGH
 18 PHILADELPHIA
 25 At Phoenix
 October 2 NEW YORK GIANTS
 9 At Dallas
 16 PHOENIX
 23 vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee
 30 At Houston (N)
 November 6 NEW ORLEANS
 13 CHICAGO
 21 At San Francisco (N)
 27 At Cleveland
 December 4 At Philadelphia
 11 DALLAS
 17 At Cincinnati

1987 SCORES

38-12
 34-24
 34-17
 23-19
 13-7
 28-21

 27-31
 24-20

"We've got some big-time people out there. With Ricky Sanders coming along like he did, we just love our first three," Gibbs said. Clark led the club in catches, yards, average, and touchdowns during the regular season. When Monk was injured, Sanders led the team in the postseason, including a Super-Bowl-record 193 yards. Eric Yarber and Anthony Allen are young, experienced backups.

Tight end is a somewhat forgotten position with the Redskins. Last year, Don Warren and Clint Didier caught only 20 passes between them. But the way Gibbs uses his personnel, especially the tight end, makes them invaluable parts in the big picture. Gibbs even goes so far as to call Warren "perhaps our most irreplaceable offensive part." Warren blocks from the conventional tight end position, blocks as an upback in the I formation, and catches in key third-down situations. Didier had big receptions in the playoff victory against the Bears. With Warren 32 and Didier 29, Gibbs will be looking for successors from among a crop including Terry Orr, Anthony Jones, Craig McEwen, and Joe Caravello.

The emergence of running back Timmy Smith in the Super Bowl made Gibbs look stupid, according to Gibbs. If Smith was good enough to set a record of 204 yards in the biggest game of all, why did he carry only 29 times for 126 yards during the season? It was enough to earn the starting job ahead of George Rogers, who was nursing a toe injury all season. Even in a one-back attack, Gibbs has shown he can find a way to utilize all his talent. Keith Griffin and young Tim Jessie also are on the horizon. Jessie played behind Bo Jackson at Auburn and impressed the Bears who drafted him in 1987.

Specialization is Gibbs's specialty. He says it makes pro football exciting. Kelvin Bryant is a \$900,000 specialist who plays mainly on third down. He accounted for 896 yards—406 rushing and 490 receiving. Tall and relatively thin, Bryant has trouble absorbing the pounding of an every-down back, but he presents a tough matchup coming out of the backfield. Reggie Branch is a short-yardage back. And since teams can never have too many runners, the Redskins drafted little Mike Oliphant and Jamie Morris in the third and fourth rounds. Both could contribute immediately in the kicking game.

The offensive line of May and Jacoby, guards Raleigh McKenzie and R.C. Thielemann, and center Joe Bostic allowed only three sacks in three playoff games. Add "sixth starter" Russ Grimm and the Redskins have a

sextet that's started 503 games and been to 12 Pro Bowls. McKenzie is in only his fourth season and was an 11th-round draft choice. Grimm is rated by some as the best lineman of the bunch, yet when he was injured, Bostic wouldn't let go of the job and Gibbs left well enough alone. Two huge second-year tackles—6-9, 320-pound Wally Kleine and 6-5, 285 Ed Simmons—join Mark Carlson, Rick Kehr, Derrick Briz, and Eric Coyle as backups. Klein will also be tried on the defensive line, where he played at Notre Dame.

The defensive line is another reason to pick the Redskins. With ends Charles Mann and Dexter Manley facing most of the tackles in the division, defensive coach Richie Petitbon and his staff have an edge in nearly every matchup. For one thing, they don't have to go up against Jacoby and May. Over their careers, they have nearly 125 sacks. Although Manley got most of the publicity last year, it was Mann who went to the Pro Bowl and came into his own on the left side. When the Redskins beat the Bears in Chicago, it was Mann who sealed it in the final moments with two sacks. Dave Butz, at 37, is the NFL's oldest defensive player. He is the anchor who collapses the middle to help pave the way for the ends. He keeps playing one year at a time and nobody can beat him out. Darryl Grant is the capable other tackle. The foursome is backed by Steve Hamilton, Markus Koch—who will be tried at linebacker—and Dean Hamel. All see action in various situations.

Marshall upgrades the linebacking considerably because he is an impact player, capable of blitzing or covering and forcing offenses to alter game plans. "He can play all downs, and that makes me feel real good at linebacker," Gibbs said. Incumbents Monte Coleman, Neal Olkewicz, and Mel Kaufman are spectacular in at least one regard—their longevity and dependability. "We just owe so much to Neal, Mel, and Monte for carrying us these past seven years. It's been a long time since we added anyone there," Gibbs said. Second-year men Ravin Caldwell and Kurt Gouveia are ready for more playing time after filling roles well last year.

The defensive backfield also illustrated the Redskins' ability to change on the run last season and not skip a beat. Three new starters opened in 1987. Strong safety Alvin Walton led the team in tackles, with 148—40 more than the runner up. Free safety Todd Bowles stepped in and finished second on the club in interceptions. Cornerback Barry Wilburn led the league in interceptions, with nine—plus

three more in the playoffs. The holdover was cornerback Darrel Green, who made his third Pro Bowl in four years. Last year's top draft choice, Brian Davis, played well in the nickel defense. Clarence Vaughn, drafted as a linebacker, played strong safety and nickel linebacker. Dennis Woodberry, Steve Gage, and Johnny Thomas provide depth.

Lohmiller is expected to solve the place-kicking problems the Redskins have experienced since Mark Moseley left. Jess Atkinson and Ali Hajj-Sheikh shared the job last year and punter Steve Cox still attempted the only field goal Gibbs tried over 50 yards. Yarber returns punts, but when the Redskins needed a punt return to beat the Bears, they went to Green, who delivered Griffin returns kickoffs, and the Redskins have a proud tradition of coverage on special teams.

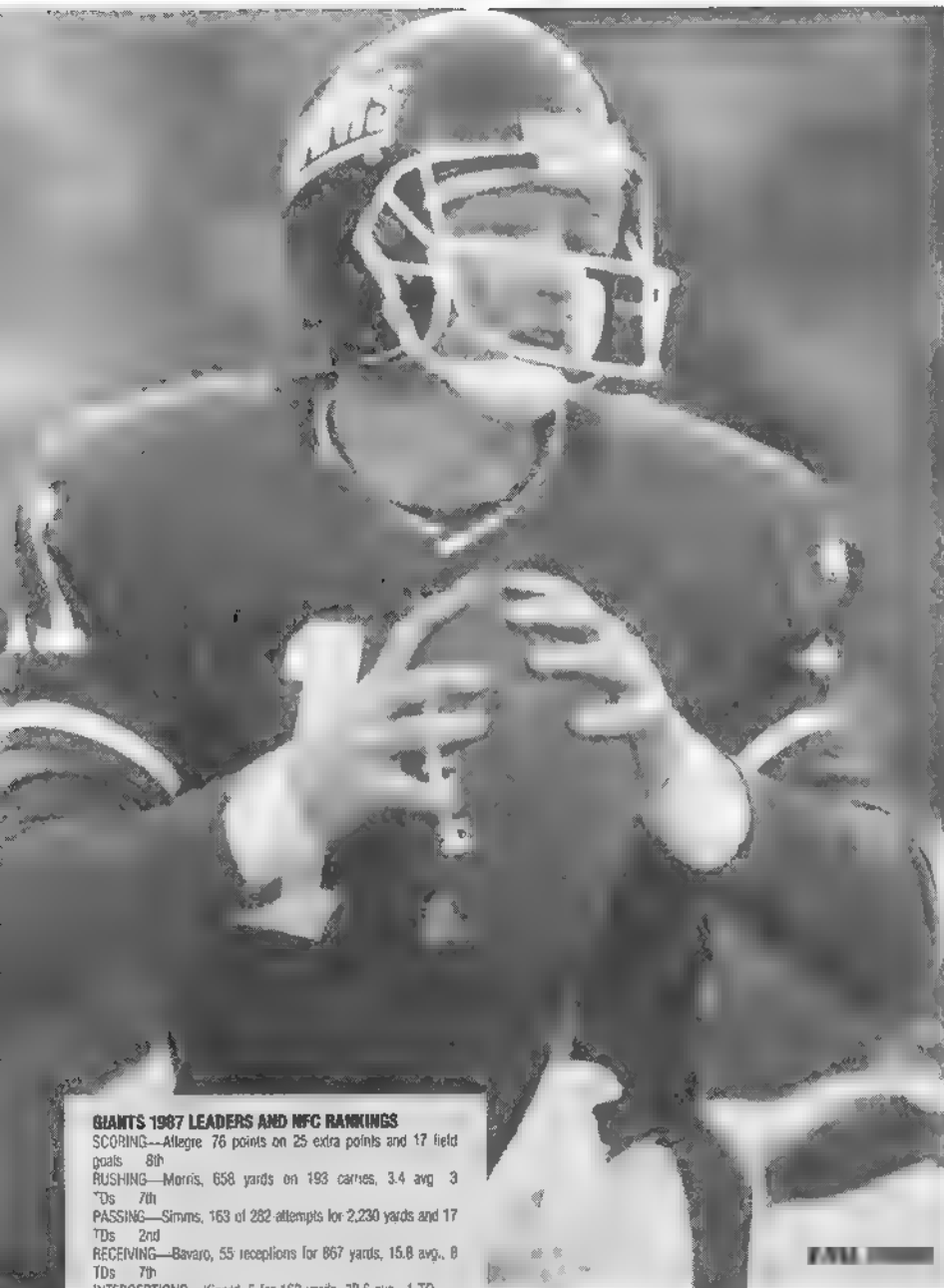
REDSKINS ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
89	Allen, Anthony	RB	5-11	182	29	Washington
4	Atkinson, Jess	K	5-9	168	27	Maryland
95	Bensch, Dan	DT	6-5	275	28	Clemson
53	Bostic, Joe	C	6-2	260	30	Clemson
23	Bowles, Todd	FS	6-2	203	25	Temple
29	Branch, Reggie	RB	5-11	235	26	East Carolina
84	Briz, Derrick	G	6-3	264	24	Oregon State
24	Bryant, Kelvin	RB	6-2	195	26	North Carolina
65	Butz, Dave	DT	6-7	256	38	Purdue
50	Caldwell, Ravin	LB	6-3	229	25	Arkansas
88	Caravello, Joe	TE	6-3	270	25	Tulane
84	Clark, Gary	WR	5-9	173	26	James Madison
51	Coleman, Monte	LB	6-2	230	31	Central Arkansas
56	Copeland, Anthony	LB	6-2	250	25	Louisville
12	Cox, Steve	K	6-4	195	30	Arkansas
34	Davis, Brian	CB	6-2	190	25	Nebraska
86	Didier, Clint	TE	6-5	240	29	Portland St.
48	Gage, Steve	S	6-3	210	24	Tulsa
54	Gouveia, Kurt	LB	6-1	227	24	Brighton Young
77	Grant, Darryl	DT	6-1	275	29	Rice
28	Green, Darrel	CB	5-8	170	28	Texas A&M
35	Griffin, Keith	RB	5-8	185	27	Miami
68	Grimm, Russ	DL	6-3	275	29	Pittsburgh
6	Hajj-Sheikh, Ali	K	6-0	172	27	Michigan
76	Hamel, Dean	DT	6-3	290	27	Tulsa
64	Hamilton, Steve	DL	6-4	270	27	East Carolina
56	Jacoby, Joe	T	6-7	305	29	Louisville
21	Jessie, Tim	RB	5-11	190	25	Auburn
82	Jones, Anthony	TE	6-3	248	28	Wichita St.
55	Kaufman, Mel	LB	6-2	230	30	Cal Poly-SLO
61	Kehr, Rick	G	6-3	285	29	Carthage
79	Kleine, Wally	T	6-9	320	24	Notre Dame
74	Koch, Markus	DE	6-5	275	25	Boise State
72	Manley, Dexter	DE	6-5	257	29	Oklahoma State
71	Mann, Charles	DE	6-6	270	27	Nevada Reno
73	Marshall, Wilber	LB	6-1	225	26	Florida
73	May, Mark	T	6-6	295	29	Pittsburgh
62	McKenzie, Raleigh	G	6-2	275	25	Tennessee
81	Monk, Art	WR	6-3	208	31	Syracuse
52	Olkewicz, Neal	LB	6-4	233	31	Maryland
87	Orr, Terry	TE	6-3	227	27	Texas
11	Rypien, Mark	QB	6-4	234	26	Washington St.
83	Sanders, Ricky	WR	5-11	180	26	SW Texas State
10	Schroeder, Jay	QB	6-4	215	27	UCLA
76	Simmons, Ed	T	6-5	280	25	E. Washington
36	Smith, Timmy	RB	5-11	216	24	Texas Tech
69	Thielemann, R.C.	G	6-4	272	33	Arkansas
47	Thomas, Johnny	CB	5-9	190	24	Baylor
31	Vaughn, Clarence	S	6-0	202	24	Northern Illinois
40	Walton, Alvin	S	6-0	180	24	Kansas
85	Warren, Don	TE	6-4	242	32	San Diego State
45	Wilburn, Barry	CB	6-3	186	26	Mississippi
17	Williams, Doug	QB	6-4	220	33	Grambling
46	Woodberry, Dennis	CB	5-10	183	27	Arkansas
80	Yarber, Eric	WR	5-8	156	25	Idaho

DRAFTSEES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
2	Lohmiller, Chip	K	6-2	201	Minnesota
3	Oliphant, Mike	RB	5-9	175	Puget Sound
4	Morris, Jamie	RB	5-7	185	Michigan
5	Morris, Carl	DB	5-10	162	Sam Houston St.
5	Humphries, Stan	QB	6-2	225	NE Louisiana
7	Hicks, Harold	DB	6-0	200	San Diego State
8	McGill, Darryl	RB	5-10	208	Wake Forest
9	Peterson, Blake	LB	6-4	250	Mesa College
10	Brown, Henry	OT	6-4	268	Ohio State
11	Koch, Carl	DE	6-8	255	Colorado
12	Ross, Wayne	F	6-3	210	San Diego State





GIANTS 1987 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Allegre, 76 points on 25 extra points and 17 field goals 8th
 RUSHING—Morris, 658 yards on 193 carries, 3.4 avg. 3rd
 PASSING—Simms, 163 of 282 attempts for 2,230 yards and 17 TDs 2nd
 RECEIVING—Bavaro, 55 receptions for 867 yards, 15.8 avg., 8 TDs 7th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Kinerd, 5 for 163 yards, 32.6 avg., 1 TD 4th
 PUNTING—Landela, 65 punts, 42.7 avg., longest 64 yards 3rd
 PUNT RETURNS—McConkey, 42 for 394 yards, 9.4 avg. 8th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Rouson, 22 for 497 yards, 22.6 avg. 3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 6 At Green Bay (N)
 13 N.Y. JETS (N)
 20 PITTSBURGH (N)
 26 At Cleveland (N)

1988 SCHEDULE	1987 SCORES
September 5 WASHINGTON (N)	12-38
11 SAN FRANCISCO	21-41
18 At Dallas	24-33
25 LOS ANGELES RAMS	—
October 2 At Washington	19-23
10 At Philadelphia (N)	20-17
16 DETROIT	—
23 At Atlanta	—
30 At Detroit	—
November 6 DALLAS	14-15
13 At Phoenix	24-27
20 PHILADELPHIA	(OT) 23-20
27 At New Orleans (N)	14-23
December 4 PHOENIX	30-7
11 KANSAS CITY	—
18 At New York Jets	20-7

NEW YORK GIANTS

The reputation of the Giants is on the line. The offensive line, to be exact. The Giants are coming off an offensive season that must be blamed on more than injury or illness and more on the offensive line. To rebound from the embarrassment, they must first revitalize that part of any team that usually goes unnoticed and unappreciated until it isn't there.

The Giants broke no new ground in failing to repeat their 1986 championship. They were the seventh straight Super Bowl winner that didn't make it back. But they did set standards for plummeting. They went from first to worst, something none of their predecessors in the history of Super Bowls managed in all their collective futility. Their 0-5 start, including an 0-3 contribution by the replacement team, destroyed them psychologically. The replacement team can't be held entirely responsible because it didn't have much of an example to follow. In the end, the regular Giants lost their

own chance to make the playoffs by squandering fourth-quarter leads in four of their six losses. That's hard to blame totally on a revamped offensive line or a patched-up replacement team.

"Let's face it, we choke," explained safety Kenny Hill. "We panic and we choke."

That could be a problem coach Bill Parcells cannot solve merely by shuffling a lineup that remains strong nearly everywhere. "I don't think this team needs a wholesale overhaul," Parcells said. "I think we do need to make some changes, though."

A fifth-place schedule allows the Giants to play Detroit twice, Kansas City, Atlanta, the Rams, and the Jets while division rival Washington copes with Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Houston, and Green Bay. This is a real advantage for the Giants, according to Washington coach Joe Gibbs.

Quarterback Phil Simms, entering his 10th season, seems to improve with age. Although the Giants lost five of nine games he started (he missed three with injury), Simms enjoyed his top career quarterback rating, finishing second in the NFC to San Francisco's Joe Montana with a 90.0 mark. Simms surpassed club records in several categories held by Charlie Conerly, Y.A. Tittle, Fran Tarkenton, and Norm Snead. Behind Simms, the Giants have Jeff Rutledge and Jeff Hostetler. When Simms was hurt last year, Rutledge threw twice as many interceptions as touchdown passes, a bad sign. Seventh round draftee Mike Perez of San Jose State will challenge.

"We just were not as consistent scoring-wise," Parcells said. "Penalties were up. Our sacks allowed were up. We just were not moving the ball well, up until the last two or three weeks of the season."

Simms's targets are an interesting bunch.



LAWRENCE TAYLOR



NFC East

Mark Bavaro had 55 receptions and was the only tight end besides San Diego's Kellen Winslow to lead a team in catches. Bavaro averaged an exceptional 15.8 yards a catch, six more than Winslow. Plus, Bavaro is one of the best blockers among all tight ends, even the ones who are primarily third tacklers. Combined with Zeke Mowatt, the Giants enjoy the best tight-end situation in football. But they would prefer other people catching more balls as well.

Running back George Adams was the second-leading receiver, but they would prefer that he run better. He averaged only 2.8 yards a rush. Lionel Manuel caught 30 passes to lead the wide receivers. That was twice the number of the nearest wideout, quick rookie Stephen Baker. They got only two catches out of their No. 1 draft choice, Mark Ingram. A third rookie last year, Odessa Turner, may be the most promising of the bunch. At 6-2, 200, he can run and will get a chance to play full-time this season. Veteran Phil McConkey was the third receiver last year, and the Giants figure somebody should be able to beat him out. Stacy Robinson is coming off an injury.

The running attack suffered along with the line. Joe Morris slipped from an average of four yards a carry to 3.3 and must rebound to keep his job. Backups are Lee Rouson, Otis Anderson, and Maurice Carthon.

General manager George Young drafted defense in 1986, receivers in 1987, and offensive linemen in 1988. With left tackle Brad Benson retiring and right tackle Karl Nelson attempting a comeback from Hodgkin's disease and shoulder arthritis, the Giants could be looking at rookie starters at tackle. William Roberts filled in at right tackle last year and probably will move to left tackle. Indiana's Eric

Moore or Michigan's John Elliott could be shoved into the lineup before either is ready. Moore was drafted in the first round and Elliott in the second. Both were projected as first-rounders and both have the size and talent to produce. Michigan State guard David Houle was the sixth-round pick. Guard Chris Godfrey is coming off a knee injury, so the only solid returning linemen from "the Suburbanites" that got to the Super Bowl are center Bart Oates and left guard Bill Ard. Reserves Damian Johnson, Brian Johnson, and Doug Riesenberger also could play leading roles.

Leonard Marshall, Erk Howard, and Eric Dorsey—right to left—are expected to form the defensive line, with veteran George Martin and aging nose tackle Jim Burt in reserve. Burt has a bad back, not something that is cured by playing nose tackle. John Washington and Bill Berthuson filled in when Marshall was nursing a wrist injury last season. Dorsey will get a chance to play full-time in Martin's spot.

Linebacker remains the strength of the club following a great season by Carl Banks, the latest of the Pro Bowl participants. He had 113 tackles and 9 sacks in 12 games and joined Lawrence Taylor and Harry Carson in Hawaii. Carson led the league record with his ninth Bowl appearance and Taylor's 12 sacks led the team as usual. With Pepper Johnson or Gary Reasons starting inside next to Carson and with Andy Headen, Byron Hunt, and Robbie Jones in reserve, no team is stronger or deeper at the position.

There could be a shakeup in the secondary where safeties Greg Lasker and Adrian White could challenge for starting jobs manned by Kenny Hill and Terry Kinard, both banged up with injuries last year. Mark Collins emerged as a top cornerback before finishing the year on injured reserve with a neck problem. Collins and Perry Williams are the starters, although Young spent his third draft choice on Miami (Ohio) cornerback Sheldon White. Herb Welch and Wayne Haddix are subs.

The defense slipped to seventh overall in



yardage allowed, but still ranked among the leaders in non-strike statistics. "We still didn't make plays in the fourth quarter that we needed to make," Parcels said. "So stats don't mean anything." The question facing the Giants, he said, is, "Can you do what you have to do to win [when] you have the opportunity?"

The punting of Sean Landeta was the highlight of the special teams. Improvement is expected from place-kicker Raul Alegria, who hit only 17 of 27 field goals. Rouson was fifth in the league in kickoff returns, and McConkey provides adequate punt returns, but the coverage teams left a lot to be desired.

GIANTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
33	Adams, George	RB	5-11	225	26	Kentucky
2	Alegria, Raul	K	5-10	167	29	Texas
24	Anderson, Otis	RB	6-2	225	31	Miami
67	Ard, Bill	G	6-3	270	29	Wake Forest
85	Baker, Stephen	WR	5-8	160	24	Fresno State
58	Banks, Carl	LB	6-4	235	26	Michigan State
89	Bavaro, Mark	TE	6-4	245	25	Notre Dame
79	Berthuson, Bill	DT	6-5	265	24	Iowa State
69	Black, Mike	T	6-4	280	24	Sacramento St.
64	Burt, Jim	NT	6-1	260	29	Miami
	Byrd, Boris	DB	6-0	210	26	Austin Peay
53	Carson, Harry	LB	6-2	240	35	S.C. State
44	Carthon, Maurice	RB	6-1	225	27	Arkansas St.
21	Clayton, Harvey	CB	5-9	185	27	Florida St.
25	Collins, Mark	CB	5-10	190	24	Calif.-Fresno
77	Dorsey, Eric	DE	6-5	280	24	Notre Dame
28	Flynn, Tom	S	6-0	195	26	Pittsburgh
30	Galbreath, Tony	RB	6-0	228	34	Missouri
61	Godfrey, Chris	G	6-3	265	30	Michigan
37	Haddix, Wayne	CB	6-1	203	23	Liberty
54	Headen, Andy	LB	6-5	242	28	Clemson
48	Hill, Kenny	S	6-0	185	30	Yale
15	Hosielier, Jeff	CB	6-3	212	27	West Virginia
74	Howard, Erk	MT	6-4	268	24	Washington St.
57	Hunt, Byron	LB	6-5	242	30	SMU
82	Ingram, Mark	WR	5-10	198	23	Michigan St.
68	Johnson, Damian	T	6-5	290	26	Kansas St.
52	Johnson, Thomas	LB	6-3	248	24	Ohio State
59	Johnson, Brian	C	6-3	275	26	North Carolina
51	Jones, Robbie	LB	6-2	230	29	Alabama
43	Kinard, Terry	S	6-1	200	26	Clemson
5	Landeta, Sean	P	6-0	200	26	Towson State
46	Lasker, Greg	S	6-0	200	24	Arkansas
86	Manuel, Lionel	WR	5-11	180	26	Pacific
70	Marshall, Leonard	DE	6-3	285	27	LSU
75	Martin, George	DE	6-4	255	35	Oregon
80	McConkey, Phil	WR	5-10	170	31	Navy
	Morgan, Dan	G	6-6	285	24	Penn. State
20	Morris, Joe	RB	5-7	195	28	Syracuse
84	Mowatt, Zeke	TE	6-3	240	27	Florida State
63	Nelson, Karl	T	6-6	285	28	Iowa State
65	Oates, Bart	C	6-3	265	30	Brigham Young
55	Reasons, Gary	LB	6-4	234	26	NW La.
26	Richardson, Tim	RB	6-0	215	24	Pacific
72	Riesenberger, Doug	T	6-5	275	23	California
66	Roberts, William	T	6-5	280	26	Ohio State
81	Robinson, Stacy	WR	5-11	185	26	N. Dakota St.
22	Rouson, Lee	RB	6-1	222	26	Colorado
17	Rutledge, Jeff	QB	6-1	195	31	Alabama
11	Simms, Phil	QB	6-3	214	32	Morhead St.
56	Taylor, Lawrence	LB	6-3	243	29	North Carolina
83	Turner, Odessa	WR	6-3	205	24	NW La.
34	Vaaron, Michael	RB	6-1	232	24	Toledo
73	Washington, John	DE	6-4	275	25	Oklahoma State
27	Welch, Herb	DB	5-11	180	27	UCLA
36	White, Adrian	S	6-0	200	24	Florida
23	Williams, Perry	CB	6-2	203	27	N.C. State

DRAFTIES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Moore, Eric	T	6-5	280	Indiana
2	Elliott, John	T	6-6	305	Michigan
3	White, Sheldon	CB	5-11	189	Miami (Ohio)
4	Shaw, Rocky	LB	6-4	234	Oklahoma St.
5	Carter, Jon	DE	6-3	260	Pittsburgh
6	Houle, David	OG	6-4	275	Michigan State
7	Perez, Mike	QB	6-1	205	San Jose State
7	Whitaker, Dante	T	6-3	240	Miss. Valley St.
8	Lilly, Sammy	DB	5-9	170	Georgia Tech
10	Hickerson, Eric	DB	6-2	215	Indiana
10	Wilkes, Steve	TE	6-4	257	Appalachian St.
11	Harris, Greg	WR	5-9	160	Troy State
12	Fofre, David	NT	6-1	286	Brigham Young
12	McCormick, Brendan	DT	6-6	268	South Carolina



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RANDALL CUNNINGHAM

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

The obvious improvement of the Eagles under coach Buddy Ryan might not be enough for owner Norman Braman. "I expect to be in the playoffs," Braman said.

Last year, the Eagles finished fourth in the East, but their 7-8 record included an 0-3 performance by the replacement team Ryan publicly ridiculed his own front office for assembling the worst players he had ever seen. The play did wonders for Ryan's relationship with his regulars, but little for his relationship with the front office. Ryan figures if he is to survive, the players are the ones who can help him more than the executives. On the field, the Eagles have some talent. In two years under him, they have improved from 5-10-1 to 7-5, impressive by any standard.

Most of the progress can be measured with one yardstick: the quarterback Randall Cunningham emerged as one of the league's most prolific players. He is exciting and effective as both a passer and a runner. Perhaps no other quarterback strikes so much fear in defenses. Cunningham ranked sixth in the NFC in passing, throwing 23 touchdowns and only 12 interceptions. He had just one interception in his last 139 attempts, indicating a growing awareness in only his first year as a full-time player. Cunningham led his team in rushing with 505 yards and 3 touchdowns. The Eagles scored 34 touchdowns and Cunningham accounted for 26. The Eagles scored more points per game (25.2) than they have since 1965. "Randall took over the leadership role on our offense and matured faster

EAGLES 1987 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—McFadden, 84 points on 36 extra points and 16 field goals
RUSHING—Cunningham, 505 yards on 76 carries, 6.6 avg., 3 TDs, 14th
PASSING—Cunningham, 223 of 406 attempts for 2,766 yards and 23 TDs, 6th
RECEIVING—Quick, 46 receptions for 790 yards, 17.2 avg., 11 TDs, 10th
INTERCEPTIONS—Foules, 4 for 6 yards, 1.5 avg., 16th
PUNTING—Tellschik, 82 punts, 38.2 avg., longest, 60 yards, 13th
PUNT RETURNS—Morse, 20 for 121 yards, 6.1 avg., 13th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Morse, 24 for 386 yards, 16.1 avg., 16th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 6 At N.Y. Jets (A)
14 At Pittsburgh (N)
20 New England (N)
25 At Detroit (N)

1988 SCHEDULE

		1987 SCORES
September	4 At Tampa Bay	—
	11 CINCINNATI	—
	18 At Washington	24-34
	25 At Minnesota	—
October	2 HOUSTON	—
	10 NEW YORK GIANTS (N)	17-20
	16 At Cleveland	—
	23 DALLAS	37-20
	30 ATLANTA	—
November	6 LOS ANGELES RAMS	—
	13 At Pittsburgh	—
	20 At New York Giants	(OT) 20-23
	27 PHOENIX	19-31
December	4 WASHINGTON	31-27
	10 At Phoenix	28-23
	18 At Dallas	22-41

than I ever thought he would," Ryan said.

Besides making big plays, Cunningham calls audibles at the right time, reads defenses, and throws balls away when they should be thrown away—little things that make a big difference. "A lot of people said he'd never be a quarterback in this league and I'm not just talking about fans, I'm talking about people in the NFL," Ryan said. "Of course Randall's very willing to work at it. He not only has the will to win, he has the will to prepare to win, and that's what some pros don't have."

The Eagles added Syracuse quarterback Don McPherson to their roster to compete with veteran Matt Cavanaugh for a backup spot. They promised McPherson a shot at quarterback even though scouts thought he would have been a higher draft choice as a receiver or defensive back. Cunningham used to hear the same argument. "McPherson reminds me of Joe Theismann," Ryan said.

While Cunningham dazzled with his running ability, becoming the first quarterback since

Carter caught only five passes, but two went for touchdowns and three for first downs. He looks like a good complement for perennial all-pro Mike Quick. Over the past five seasons, Quick has caught more touchdown passes (53) than any other NFL player and ranks behind only James Lofton and Steve Largent in receiving yardage for the same period. "I wouldn't trade Mike for any receiver," Ryan said. Gregg Garrity, Martin Booker, and Ron Johnson add depth.

No. 1 draft choice Keith Jackson adds speed and another dimension for Cunningham to exploit. The Oklahoma tight end is rated the best prospect since Kellen Winslow, and the Eagles were delighted to get him with the 13th pick in the first round, the same spot in which San Diego got Winslow. Ryan made him a starter within seconds of drafting him, sending a message to veterans John Spagnola and Jimmie Giles. Dave Little and Eric Bailey also will vie for reserve spots.

The offensive line cuts its sacks allowed in half last year, but Cunningham's mobility gets some of the credit. There are still question marks on this unit. During the offseason, second-year man Ben Tamburello was promoted to starting left guard and former defensive player Reggie Singletary was inserted as starting right tackle. Converted center Matt Darwin played "100 percent better" at left tackle than at center last year and Gerry Feeney became a leader at center. Right guard Ron Baker had the highest grades on the line the last two years. Third-rounder Matt Patchan of Miami will join Adam Schreiber, David Alexander, Nick Haden, Bob Landsee, Mike Kelley, Ken Reeves, and Jeff Wenzel in the scramble for backup roles.

Ryan is more confident in his defensive line. "It should be the best in pro football," he said. Third in the league in sacks last year, with 45, the line got 21 from Reggie White, who plays left end and nose tackle and generally wherever he wants. His presence makes better players of tackles Jerome Brown and Mike Pitts. Right end Clyde Simmons added six sacks and four blocked kicks. Mike Golic, Jonathan Dumbauld, and John Klingel are

because teams threw more against them than any other team. Ryan traded up to get corner back Eric Allen in the second round. He will play opposite Roynell Young and fifth-round-er Eric Everett will get a shot with William Frizze, Elbert Foulkes, Cedrick Brown, and D.D. Hoggard challenging. Safeties Andre Waters and Terry Hoage pleased Ryan more than his cornerbacks, who carry a heavy burden in Ryan's scheme of defense. If Wes Hopkins returns from a knee injury, the situation will be even better. Russell Gary and Evan Cooper also are around.

Special teams need a total overhaul. The Eagles were near the bottom in the league in kickoff returns, punting, punt returns, and field goal accuracy.

EAGLES VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
72	Alexander, David	T	6-3	275	24	Tulsa
58	Allert, Ty	LB	6-2	233	25	Texas
87	Barley, Eric	TE	6-5	240	25	Kansas St.
63	Baker, Ron	G	6-4	274	34	Oklahoma St.
23	Brown, Cedrick	CB	5-10	182	24	Washington St.
99	Brown, Jerome	DT	6-2	288	23	Miami
41	Byars, Keith	RB	6-1	238	25	Ohio State
80	Carter, Kris	WR	6-3	194	23	Ohio State
6	Cavanaugh, Matt	QB	6-2	210	32	Pittsburgh
27	Clemmons, Topper	RB	5-11	205	25	Wake Forest
50	Cobb, Gary	LB	6-2	230	31	Southern Cal.
79	Conwell, Joe	T	6-5	286	27	North Carolina
21	Cooper, Evan	S	5-11	194	26	Michigan
45	Crawford, Charles	RB	6-2	243	24	Oklahoma St.
12	Cunningham, Randall	QB	6-4	201	25	Nevada-Las Vegas
78	Darwin, Matt	T	6-4	275	25	Texas A&M
93	Dumbauld, Jonathan	DE	6-4	259	25	Kentucky
56	Evans, Byron	LB	6-2	225	24	Arizona
67	Feeney, Gerry	C	6-2	270	28	Syracuse
29	Foulkes, Elbert	CB	5-11	193	27	Alcorn State
33	Frizzell, William	S	6-3	205	26	N. C. Central
86	Gandy, Gregg	WR	5-10	169	27	Penn. State
38	Gary, Russell	S	5-11	200	29	Nebraska
83	Giles, Jimmie	TE	6-3	240	34	Alcorn State
90	Golic, Mike	DE	6-5	275	26	Notre Dame
26	Haddix, Michael	PB	6-2	227	27	Mississippi St.
62	Haden, Nick	G	6-2	270	26	Penn. State
34	Hoage, Terry	FS	6-3	201	26	Georgia
22	Hoggard, D.D.	CB	6-0	188	23	N. C. St.
48	Hopkins, Wes	FS	6-1	212	27	T.M.U.
53	Jiles, Dwayne	LB	6-4	250	27	Texas Tech
54	Johnson, Alonzo	LB	6-3	222	25	Florida
85	Johnson, Ron	WR	6-3	186	30	Long Beach St.
59	Joyner, Seth	LB	6-2	248	24	Texas-El Paso
64	Kelley, Mike	OL	6-5	280	26	Notre Dame
97	Klingel, John	DE	6-3	287	25	E. Kentucky
65	Landsee, Bob	OL	6-4	273	24	Wisconsin
89	Little, Dave	TE	6-2	226	27	Middle Tenn.
6	McFadden, Paul	K	5-11	166	27	Youngstown St.
36	Morse, Bobby	RB	5-10	213	23	Michigan St.
74	Pitts, Mike	DT	6-5	277	28	Alabama
82	Quick, Mike	WR	6-2	190	29	N. C. St.
86	Reeves, Ken	OL	6-5	270	27	Texas A&M
55	Reichenbach, Mike	LB	6-2	230	27	East Stroudsburg
76	Schreiber, Adam	G	6-4	277	26	Texas
95	Schulz, Jody	LB	6-3	235	28	East Carolina
96	Simmons, Clyde	DE	6-6	276	24	W. Carolina
68	Singletary, Reggie	G	6-3	280	24	N. C. St.
88	Spagnola, John	TE	6-4	242	31	Yale
37	Tautalatas, Junior	RB	5-10	210	26	Washington St.
10	Telchuk, John	P	6-2	209	24	Texas
25	Toney, Anthony	RB	6-0	227	26	Texas A&M
20	Walters, Andre	SS	5-11	199	26	Cheyney
73	Wenzel, Jeff	T	6-7	270	25	Tulane
92	White, Reggie	DE	6-5	285	27	Tennessee
43	Young, Roynell	CB	6-1	185	31	Alcorn State

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Jackson, Keith	TE	6-2	242	Oklahoma
2	Allen, Eric	CB	5-9	185	Arizona State
3	Patchan, Matt	T	6-3	274	Miami
5	Everett, Eric	CB	5-10	161	Texas Tech
6	McPherson, Don	QB	6-0	183	Syracuse
6	Sterning, Rob	DE	5-11	195	Maine
7	White, Todd	WR	5-10	186	Cal. State-Fullerton
8	Smith, David	RB	6-1	220	Western Kentucky
10	Schuster, Joe	DT	6-5	260	Iowa
11	Jenkins, Izell	DE	5-10	183	N.C. St.
12	Kaulusi, Steve	DE	6-4	239	Bingham Young



among the backups

At linebacker, Ryan calls left-side starter Seth Joyner "as good as any linebacker in the league." Middle linebacker Byron Evans replaced the injured Mike Reichenbach late last year and showed enough promise to start again. The right side will be a fight between Dwayne Jiles and Ty Allert. Gary Cobb, Ron Moten, and Jody Schulz are backups.

Improvement in the secondary is vital. The Eagles finished last in pass defense, mainly

Chicago's Bobby Douglass in 1972 to lead his team in rushing. Ryan knows the conventional running game must improve for the Eagles to have a chance. That means Keith Byars has to shake the foot-injury jinx that has caused him to miss his first two training camps.

"If you can't run the football, it's tough to do anything," Ryan said. "It's tough to play defense, tough to throw the ball and it just makes it that much tougher to win. Keith has got to play like we knew he could when we drafted him. I know people are sick of hearing me tell them what a great player he is, but he is a great player. This is the year he's got to come through and show them."

Teamed with Anthony Toney, who out-gained Byars, 473-426, Byars can give the Eagles one of the best big backfields in football. Michael Haddix is an excellent blocker and Junior Tautalatas is expected to return to the form that made him the team's second-leading receiver in 1986.

At receiver, the Eagles are well-stocked even if starter Kenny Jackson sticks to his off-season decision to retire. That's because Chris Carter showed enough in his brief rookie debut for Ryan to pencil him in as a future all-pro

DALLAS COWBOYS

Despite two consecutive losing seasons for the first time since 1963-64, optimism has returned to the Dallas Cowboys. There's only so much gloom one team can take, only so many legs one team can break. The Cowboys think they are on the mend. An incredible string of broken legs—the same one twice to star receiver Mike Sherrard—contributed to a 7-8 record in a season broken by a strike. On the heels of 7-9 in 1986, it marked a poor start for the three-year comeback plan of coach Tom Landry. The Cowboys finished 1987 with victories over the Rams and Cardinals, ruining the playoff dreams of both. The Cowboys themselves fell just one touchdown shy of making the playoffs—a 44-38 overtime loss to Minnesota on Thanksgiving.

Some problems were solved despite the problems Landry experienced from top to bottom. Team owner Bum Bright said he was "horrified" by Landry's play-calling and questioned the leadership of the front office except for president Tex Schramm. When Landry was giving the ball to Herschel Walker, he looked a lot smarter. This is the Herschel era in Dallas. If the Cowboys find a quarterback who can just get the ball to No. 34, it might at least scare the Redskins in a very tough division.

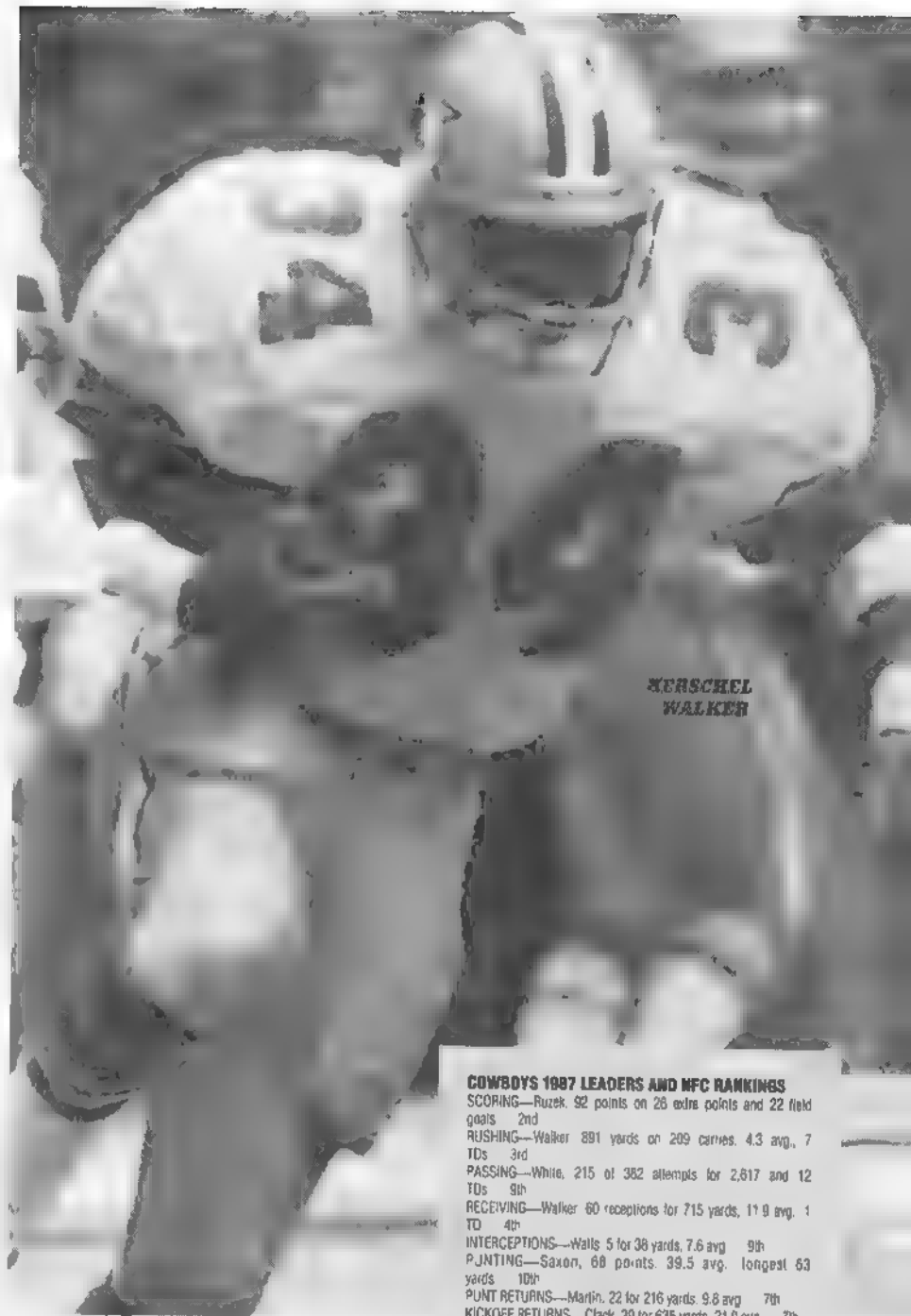
To rebound from the unfortunate luck to Sherrard and to alleviate the pressure on Walker, the Cowboys made talented receiver Michael Irvin of Miami their No. 1 draft choice. "This should accelerate our return to the living," Schramm said. Irvin was rated the No. 1 player in the country by the Cowboys, known to do things differently from most in the personnel arena. They had him ahead of Notre Dame's Tim Brown and South Carolina's Sterling Sharpe, two receivers drafted before Irvin in an unprecedented group of pass-catchers. "Mike is an exciting player," said Gil Brandt, director of player personnel. "He'll excite the fans and he will excite the other players and he will excite our organization."

Indeed, the Cowboys are confident enough in the future to have spent their 11th-round draft choice on Air Force defensive end Chad Hennings. He has a five-year service commitment, but the Cowboys remember Navy's Roger Staubach.

Quarterback is a question mark Landry can only hope is answered by Steve Pelluer, Danny White, and Kevin Sweeney. Pelluer performed well in the final two victories and is the starter until further notice. White, 36, wants a chance to test a damaged right wrist that has altered his throwing motion and threatened his career. Sweeney threw four touchdown passes in two replacement games and spent the rest of the regular season listening to Cowboys fans chant his name. Late draft choice Scott Secules is an interesting addition. He followed last year's surprise Packer draftee, Don Majkowski, at Virginia.

"We have quarterbacks who can win for us," said Landry. "Steve is young and he's got his confidence back. Danny could play a very important role as a backup." About Sweeney, Landry said, "We want to see what [he] can do. He has some awfully good qualities. He can really throw. It's just a matter of whether he's strong enough to hold up under the punishment you have to take as an NFL quarterback."

Walker started the final seven games at tail-



back after Landry decided he couldn't satisfy both Herschel and Tony Dorsett either by pairing them or alternating them. In those seven games, Walker averaged 157 yards (93.6 rushing and 63.4 receiving). That projects to 1,500 yards rushing and 1,000 yards receiving over a 16-game season. "We are building for the future with Herschel as the foundation," Landry said.

Dorsett requested a trade, but with few teams interested in his age and paycheck, Landry said he wouldn't mind having him around as insurance. Fullback Timmy Newsum is a solid blocker and receiver, one of only four offensive starters left from the Cowboys' 1985 division championship team. The others are center Tom Rafferty, receiver Mike Renfro, and tight end Doug Cosbie. Todd

COWBOYS 1987 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Ruzek, 92 points on 26 extra points and 22 field goals. 2nd
RUSHING—Walker, 891 yards on 209 carries, 4.3 avg., 7 TDs. 3rd
PASSING—White, 215 of 382 attempts for 2,617 and 12 TDs. 9th
RECEIVING—Walker, 60 receptions for 715 yards, 11.9 avg., 1 TD. 4th
INTERCEPTIONS—Watts, 5 for 36 yards, 7.6 avg. 9th
PUNTING—Saxon, 68 punts, 39.5 avg., longest 63 yards. 10th
PUNT RETURNS—Martin, 22 for 216 yards, 9.8 avg. 7th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Clack, 29 for 635 yards, 21.9 avg. 7th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 6 at San Diego (N)
13 at L.A. Raiders
22 CHICAGO (N)
27 HOUSTON (N)

1988 SCHEDULE

		1987 SCORES
September	4 at Pittsburgh	—
	12 at Phoenix (N)	13-24
	18 NEW YORK GIANTS	33-24
	25 AT ATLANTA	10-21
October	8 at New Orleans (N)	—
	9 WASHINGTON	7-13
	16 at Chicago	—
	23 at Philadelphia	20-37
	30 PHOENIX	21-16
November	6 at New York Giants	16-14
	13 MINNESOTA (N)	(OT) 38-44
	20 CINCINNATI	—
	24 HOUSTON	—
December	4 at Cleveland	—
	11 at Washington	20-24
	18 PHILADELPHIA	41-22

Fowler is Newsome's backup. Kick returner Darryl Clack is a good all-purpose back who can play behind Walker.

The receiving lineup was manned last year by Renfro and replacement team star Kelvin Edwards, a castoff of the Saints. Sherrard suffered a compound fracture of his right leg during a training-camp drill last summer and then re-broke the same leg last March while jogging on the beach. He will miss training camp and the preseason, although doctors have not ruled out the possibility he could play in 1988. Gordon Banks, Rod Barksdale, Everett Gay, Kelvin Martin, and Ray Alexander will vie for backup spots.

The 6-2, 200-pound Irvin has the size and speed to dominate either outside or over the middle. "It should help our running game considerably," Landry said. "Irvin should be good enough to force the defense to pay attention and get off Herschel."

At tight end, Cosbie is coming off another good year to begin his 10th season. He should benefit by Irvin's presence, too. Backups are Thornton Chandler and Steve Folsom.

A program is needed for the offensive line. The Cowboys finished last season with two rookies at the tackle spots, Kevin Cogan and Darryl Smith. The guards were huge Nate Newton and Crawford Ker, but the Cowboys spent the third and fourth draft picks to take guard Mark Hutson of Oklahoma and tackle Dave Widell of Boston College, who could challenge for starting spots. Newton weighed 360 pounds by the end of last season. "It might alert him," Landry said. Last year's third-round draft choice, 300-pound Jeff Zimmerman, also might be ready to make his move. Center was shared by George Lilja and Ralfeity. Tackle Mark Turner was starting until sidelined by a knee injury. Replacement players Bob White and Steve Cisowski stuck.

Change on defense is also on Landry's mind. Last year's No. 1 draft choice, Danny Noonan, will replace future Hall of Famer Randy White at right tackle, with White being used as a pass-rushing specialist at end. Too Tall Jones proved he is not yet too old by leading the team with 10 sacks. He and Jim Jeffcoat are the ends with Kevin Brooks joining Noonan as the tackles. Don Smerek, Mark Walen, and Robert Smith are backups.

Second draft choice Ken Norton Jr., the boxer's son, will be tried at outside linebacker, where Mike Hegman and Jeff Rohrer have started for three seasons. Hegman is one of three linebackers coming off a fractured leg. The others are backup Jesse Penn and middle linebacker Eugene Lockhart. Lockhart was on his way to a Pro Bowl berth when sidelined and replaced by Ron Burton, who played so well he will be tried outside. Steve DeOssie, Garth Jax, and Jeff Hurd also return.

Second-year cornerback Ron Francis held up well as a rookie under fire. He started all season on the right side and should provide a strong tandem with veteran Everson Walls, who is 10 interceptions away from Mel Renfro as the club's all-time leader. At safety, Bill

Bates and Michael Downs could face challenges from Vince Albright and Victor Scott. Backups include former basketball player Manny Hendrix and Robert Williams.

Second-year kicker Roger Ruzek is coming off an outstanding debut. After joining former USFL teammate Walker, Ruzek connected on 22 of 25 field goals, a welcome surprise. Punter Mike Saxon has led the league for two years in kicks inside the 20-yard line. Kick returner Clack and punt returner Martin provide a good one-two punch.



no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
36	Albright, Vince	S	6-2	217	26	Washington
2	Alexander, Ray	WR	6-4	196	26	Florida A&M
87	Banks, Gordon	WR	5-10	170	30	Stanford
80	Barksdale, Rod	WR	6-1	193	26	Arizona
40	Bates, Bill	S	6-1	199	27	Tennessee
99	Brooks, Kevin	DT	6-8	278	25	Michigan
15	Burbage, Cornell	WR	5-10	181	23	Kentucky
57	Burton, Ron	LB	6-1	245	24	North Carolina
89	Chandler, Thomson	TE	6-5	242	25	Alabama
70	Cisowski, Steve	T	6-5	275	25	Santa Clara
42	Clack, Darryl	RB	5-10	220	25	Arizona State
84	Cosbie, Doug	TE	6-6	241	32	Santa Clara
56	DeOssie, Steve	LB	6-2	249	26	Boston College
33	Dorssett, Tony	RB	5-11	188	34	Pittsburgh
26	Downs, Michael	S	6-3	212	29	Rice
81	Edwards, Kelvin	WR	6-2	206	24	Liberty
85	Folsom, Steve	TE	6-5	236	30	Utah
46	Fowler, Todd	FB	6-3	222	26	Stephen F. Austin
38	Francis, Ron	CB	5-9	199	24	Baylor
66	Gogan, Kevin	T	6-7	310	24	Washington
27	Haynes, Tommy	S	6-0	190	25	Southern Cal
58	Hegman, Mike	LB	6-1	226	35	Tennessee St.
45	Hendrix, Manny	CB	5-10	181	24	Jah
52	Hurd, Jeff	LB	6-2	245	24	Kansas State
53	Jax, Garth	LB	6-2	222	25	Florida State
77	Jeffcoat, Jim	DE	6-5	263	27	Arizona State
72	Jones, Ed	DE	6-4	275	37	Tennessee St.
68	Ker, Crawford	G	6-3	283	26	Florida
67	Lilja, George	C	6-4	282	30	Michigan
56	Lockhart, Eugene	LB	6-2	230	27	Houston
14	McDonald, Paul	QB	6-2	182	30	Southern Cal
83	Martin, Kelvin	WR	5-9	163	23	Boston College
30	Newsome, Timmy	FB	6-1	235	30	Winston-Salem St.
61	Newton, Nate	G	6-3	315	27	Florida A&M
73	Noonan, Danny	DT	6-4	270	23	Nebraska
16	Pelluer, Steve	QB	6-4	208	26	Washington
59	Penn, Jesse	LB	6-3	224	26	Virginia Tech
64	Ralfeity, Tom	C	6-3	263	34	Penn State
82	Renfro, Mike	WR	6-0	184	33	TCU
50	Rohrer, Jeff	LB	6-2	222	30	Yale
9	Ruzek, Roger	K	6-1	190	28	Weber State
4	Saxon, Mike	P	6-3	193	26	San Diego St.
22	Scott, Victor	S	6-0	203	26	Colorado
86	Sherrard, Mike	WR	6-2	194	25	UCLA
60	Smerek, Don	DL	6-7	266	31	Nevada-Reno
79	Smith, Darryl	T	6-5	278	24	Tennessee
97	Smith, Robert	DE	6-7	267	26	Grambling
19	Sweeney, Kevin	QB	6-0	193	25	Fresno State
63	Tilenson, Glen	G	6-4	275	30	Brigham Young
71	Tuinei, Mark	T	6-5	282	28	Hawaii
95	Walen, Mark	DL	6-5	262	25	UCLA
34	Walker, Herschel	RB	6-1	225	26	Georgia
24	Walls, Everson	CB	6-1	192	29	Grambling
94	Watts, Randy	DE	6-6	305	25	Catawba
62	Westberry, Gary	C	6-2	268	24	Hampton
65	White, Bob	OL	6-5	267	25	Rhode Island
11	White, Danny	QB	6-3	198	36	Arizona State
37	White, Gerald	FB	5-11	223	24	Michigan
54	White, Randy	DT	6-4	263	35	Maryland
23	Williams, Robert	CB	5-10	190	26	Baylor
48	Wright, Charles	CB	5-8	178	24	Tulsa
76	Zimmerman, Jeff	G	6-3	316	23	Florida

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Irvin, Michael	WR	6-2	202	Miami
2	Norton, Ken	LB	6-2	224	UCLA
3	Hutson, Mark	G	6-3	292	Oklahoma
4	Widell, David	DT	6-8	280	Boston College
6	Seoules, Scott	QB	6-2	218	Virginia
7	Hoover, Owen	OT	6-9	308	Oregon St.
8	Higgs, Mark	RB	5-7	190	Kentucky
9	Bedford, Brian	WR	6-4	210	California
10	Owens, Billy	QB	6-1	198	Pittsburgh
11	Hennings, Chad	OT	6-5	252	Air Force
12	Hummel, Ben	LB	6-4	230	UCLA

PHOENIX CARDINALS

The Cardinals made more than one move to get ready for 1988. The day after owner Billy Bidwill received the approval from his fellow owners to transfer his franchise from St. Louis to Phoenix, he announced the signing of quarterback Neil Lomax to a contract befitting the statistics Lomax produced during a season of vindication.

Coach Gene Stallings earned plaudits for a job worthy of coach of the year honors. Playing amid more rumors than fans, the Cardinals managed to win four of their last six games and miss the playoffs only because they lost the finale. By the time they got to Phoenix, the lowly Cards were even considered contenders by some citizens who have been so starved for pro football they didn't care who satisfied their craving. Six of the Cardinals' eight defeats were decided by a touchdown or less. The seven victories were the most by a Cardinal team since 1984. It was enough to make Phoenix fans threaten lawsuits over tickets, which were being distributed according to a controversial formula designed by Arizona State. Since the college owns the stadium, it wants some say in who buys the tickets.

It's a new problem for Bidwill, whose football Cardinals always required special identification to distinguish them from the more popular baseball team. The football team played on eight home dates in St. Louis yet still was unable to outdraw the baseball team on an average date. But in Phoenix the Cardinals are a hot item. Just how hot depends somewhat on the temperature. Former Arizona State and NFL coach Frank Kush thinks the payers could melt. The first day game is against the world champion Washington Redskins on September 25, when it could be more than 100 degrees.

"I think the move will excite the football team. Playing in front of a sellout crowd every home game excites all of us," said Stallings. The Cardinals were more exciting last year than their crowds in St. Louis would indicate. Lomax directed an offense that ranked sixth in both passing yardage and overall yardage. Lomax completed nearly 60 percent of his passes for 24 touchdowns and only 12 interceptions. He led the league with 3,387 passing yards and threw for 230 yards or more in 10 of his 12 games. The result was his second Pro Bowl berth and the recognition by his peers as being among the elite quarterbacks. Only 28, Lomax made the 1987 drafting of Kelly Stouffer appear unnecessary if not downright foolish. He is the unquestioned leader of a team that appeared to be going nowhere despite constant rumors of moving.

"Signing me is the second-best decision Mr. Bidwill made after moving here," Lomax told his Phoenix audience last spring. "It shows he means business here, and I couldn't be more pleased."

"The thing that a quarterback has to do is bring his team back from behind, and Neil did that a number of times this year, starting off with the Dallas game [21 fourth-quarter points]," Stallings said. "He brought us back against San Diego, even though we didn't win. He brought us back against Philadelphia [and] from way back against Tampa [28 fourth-quarter points]. This is one of the traits of an outstanding quarterback—to get your team back into a position to win."

With Cliff Stoudt and Sammy Garza the only



NEIL LOMAX

backups, another banner year from Lomax is crucial for the team, even though sellout crowds are practically guaranteed while the honeymoon is on. The Cardinals made Ohio State's Tom Tupa the No. 1 quarterback drafted, although he is a better punter.

A further testimony to Lomax's skill was the Cardinals' ability to produce on offense despite injuries to their runners and receivers. Roy Green has been hobbled by an assortment of leg and foot injuries for three years. Although he has caught 135 passes for 15 touchdowns during that time, those numbers pale in comparison to a healthy Green. J.T. Smith continues to baffle the experts. In his final three seasons with the Kansas City Chiefs (1982-84), he caught only 25 passes. Since signing with the Cards as a free agent in 1985, he's caught 214 passes. In the last two seasons, he has caught more (171) than any other NFL player. When he was snubbed by Pro Bowl voters last season, teammates were appalled. His 91 catches were 23 ahead of the nearest challenger in the league. Age at wide receiver is a concern but not yet a problem. Three youngsters will vie for backup spots: Ron Brown, Troy Johnson, and Don Holmes. Rookie tight end Robert Awalt replaced the injured Jay Novacek and caught 42 passes and 6 touchdowns, earning him at least one NFL Rookie of the Year award.

Stallings calls running back one of the

CARDINALS 1987 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Gaffney, 57 points on 30 extra points and 9 field goals.
RUSHING—Mitchell, 781 yards on 293 carries, 3.8 avg., 3 TDs.
PASSING—Lomax, 275 of 463 attempts for 3,387 yards and 24 TDs.
RECEIVING—Smith, 91 receptions for 1,117 yards, 12.3 avg., 8 TDs.
INTERCEPTIONS—Curtis, 5 for 65 yards, 13.0 avg., 7th.
PUNTING—Horne, 43 punts, 40.2 avg., longest 57 yards.
PUNT RETURNS—Silkham, 44 for 550 yards, 12.5 avg., 1 TD.
KICKOFF RETURNS—Silkham, 34 for 761 yards, 22.4 avg., 6th.

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 4 At Seattle (N)
12 NEW ORLEANS (N)
21 MINNESOTA (N)
25 At Kansas City (N)

1988 SCHEDULE

		1987 SCORES
September	4 At Cincinnati	—
	12 DALLAS (N)	24-13
	18 At Tampa Bay	31-14
	25 WASHINGTON	17-34
October	2 At Los Angeles Rams	—
	9 PITTSBURGH	—
	16 At Washington	21-28
	23 CLEVELAND	—
	30 At Dallas	16-21
November	6 SAN FRANCISCO	28-34
	13 NEW YORK GIANTS	27-24
	20 At Houston	—
	27 At Philadelphia	31-19
December	4 At New York Giants	7-30
	10 PHILADELPHIA	23-28
	18 GREEN BAY	—

strong areas of his team and drafting TCU's Tony Jeffery in the second round made it stronger. Stump Mitchell is the club's all-time leader in combined yardage and has led the team in rushing for three years. Fullback Earl Ferrell is big and dependable, but he missed the final month with a knee injury. With Vai Sikahema and Ron Worley, two Pro Bowl special-teams' players, backing up in the backfield, the Cardinal runners balance the passing game nicely.

"Our running game was good, but we did not protect the quarterback in all areas like we need to," Stallings said.

Protection for Lomax is vital, and left tackle Luis Sharpe is a Pro Bowl selection in the prime of his career. He was helped on the left side last year by rookie guard Todd Peat, an 11th-round surprise who threw around his 295 pounds with aplomb. Center Derek Kennard, guard Lance Smith, and tackle Tootie Robbins round out the starting unit, with Mike Reuther, Ray Brown, Gene Chilton, Michael Morris, Tom Welter, and Charles Vatterolt working for backup spots.

The return of defensive end David Galloway from injury and the addition of No. 1 draft choice Ken Harvey at linebacker should immediately improve a unit that ranked 23rd in points and 25th in overall yards and passing yardage. Galloway missed most of the year with a fractured forearm. Stallings had moved him from nose tackle to end to take better advantage of his pass-rushing skill. "Before he got injured, I thought David Galloway would be truly a great football player. I think he still will be. We went to a 4-3 defense primarily for [him]," said Stallings. With left end Freddie Joe Nunn coming off an 11-sack season after moving from linebacker, the Cardinals should be formidable up front. They will be looking for more from the corner tackles, where Bob Clardy and Steve Alvord played well against the run. Mark Duda, Aussie Colin Scotts, Mark Garalczyk, and end Rod Saddler hope for more playing time. Harvey could give Stallings the option of the 3-4.

At linebacker, the Cardinals should produce more than they do. With big hitter Niko Noga in the middle, flanked by former No. 1 draft choices E.J. Junior on the right and Anthony Bell on the left, Stallings needs more

than the five turnovers they caused last season. Harvey, the most impressive physical specimen in the draft, could help inside or out. Backups are Charlie Baker, Wayne Davis, and Ilija Jarostchuk.

Outstanding strong safety Leonard Smith, who has led the team in tackles for three years, and free safety Lonnie Young could give the Cardinals a dominating middle, and fourth-round draft choice Michael Brum is needed at cornerback. The Cardinals not only ranked 25th in pass defense, they tied for 23rd in interceptions, with only 14. Five came from sub Travis Curtis. Last year's No. 2 draft choice, Tim McDonald, is a so expected back from injury to provide depth at safety. At cornerback, the Cardinals are not so talented or deep. Starters Carl Carter and Cedric Mack and backed by Mark Jackson, Mack's two interceptions were the only ones they got. "We were plagued by the big play, whether it was

at corner or safety. I feel like our secondary needs to play better," Stallings said.

Kicking has plagued the Cardinals more than anything in the past three years: a parade of place-kickers has converted only 48.1 percent of field goals (38 of 79). The acquisition of A. Del Greco last year was promising after he connected on four of five. Punter Greg Horne joined the team late and averaged 40.5 yards, but Tupa is expected to get the job. With Sikahema established as the league's best double-threat kick-return man and Wolfey covering kicks, the Cardinals are considerably better in those special teams.



J.T. SMITH



no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
60	Alvord, Steve	DT	6-4	272	24	Washington
80	Awalt, Robert	TE	6-5	248	24	San Diego St.
52	Baker, Charlie	LB	6-2	234	31	New Mexico
55	Bell, Anthony	LB	6-3	231	24	Michigan St.
71	Bostic, Joe	G	6-3	268	31	Clayton
62	Brown, Ray	OL	6-5	290	26	Arkansas St.
82	Brown, Ron	WR	5-10	186	25	Colorado
41	Carter, Carl	CB	5-11	180	24	Texas Tech
74	Chilton, Gene	T	6-3	271	24	Texas
79	Clardy, Bob	DT	6-5	260	28	Notre Dame
20	Curtis, Travis	FS	5-10	180	23	West Virginia
53	Davis, Wayne	LB	6-1	213	24	Alabama
17	Del Greco, A.	K	5-10	191	26	Auburn
73	Duda, Mark	DT	6-1	279	27	Maryland
31	Ferrell, Earl	FB	6-0	240	30	E. Tennessee St.
13	Galler, Jim	K	6-1	190	27	Minnesota
65	Galloway, David	DE	6-3	279	29	Florida
76	Goralczyk, Mark	DT	6-5	272	23	W. Michigan
6	Gura, Sammy	QB	6-1	184	23	Texas El Paso
81	Green, Roy	WR	6-0	195	31	Henderson St.
75	Groce, Curtis	DE	6-4	258	31	Michigan
89	Harris, William	TE	6-4	243	23	Texas
83	Holmes, Don	WR	5-0	180	27	Mesa
1	Horne, Greg	P	6-4	188	24	Arkansas
21	Jackson, Mark	CB	5-9	180	26	Abilene Christian
50	Jarostchuk, Ilija	LB	6-3	231	24	New Hampshire
27	Johnson, Gregory	DB	6-1	195	30	Oklahoma St.
87	Johnson, Tony	WR	6-1	175	26	Southern
54	Junior, E.J.	LB	6-3	235	29	Alabama
70	Kennard, Derek	OL	6-3	285	26	Nevada-Reno
47	Mack, Cedric	CB	6-0	134	28	Baylor
15	Long, Nick	DB	6-3	2-5	29	Portland St.
33	McAfee, Derrick	HB	5-10	198	23	Baylor
46	McDonald, Tim	DB	6-2	207	23	USC
10	Mitchell, Stump	WR	5-9	188	29	The Citadel
68	Morris, Michael	G	6-5	275	27	N.E. Missouri St.
57	Noga, Niko	LB	6-1	235	26	Hawaii
85	Novack, Jay	TE	6-4	235	26	Wyoming
78	Nunn, Freddie Joe	DE	6-4	255	26	Mississippi
64	Peat, Todd	G	6-2	294	24	No. Illinois
26	Peoples, Tim	DB	6-0	200	24	Washington
63	Robbins, Tootie	T	6-5	302	30	East Carolina
5	Ruehli, Mike	OL	6-4	275	26	Texas
39	Sargent, Broderick	FB	5-11	215	26	Baylor
72	Saddler, Rod	DE	6-5	276	23	Texas A&M
69	Scotts, Colin	DT	6-5	263	25	Hawaii
6	Sharpe, Luis	T	6-4	260	28	UCJA
36	Sikahema, Vai	HB	5-9	19	26	BVL
84	Smith, J.T.	WR	6-2	185	33	North Texas St.
61	Smith, Lance	OL	6-2	262	25	LSU
45	Smith, Leonard	SS	5-11	202	28	McNesse St.
18	Stout, Gil	DB	6-4	215	33	Youngstown St.
76	Vatterolt, Charles	OL	6-4	263	24	SW Texas St.
86	Welter, Tom	T	6-5	280	24	Nebraska
24	Wolfey, Ron	FB	6-0	222	26	West Virginia
43	Young, Lonnie	FS	6-1	182	25	Michigan St.

DRAFTED

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Harvey, Ken	LB	6-2	224	California
2	Jeffery, Tony	RB	5-11	201	Texas Christian
3	Tupa, Tom	QB/P	6-4	213	Ohio State
4	Brum, Michael	DB	6-0	88	Virginia Union
5	Gaines, Jhus	LB	6-0	228	Vanderbilt
5	Jordan, Tony	RB	6-2	220	Kansas St.
6	Phillips, Jon	OG	6-4	275	Oklahoma
7	Jones, Ernie	WR	5-11	189	Indiana
8	Moore, Tim	LB	6-3	225	Michigan State
9	Dill, Sutt	OG	6-4	265	Memphis State
10	Schillinger, Andy	WR	5-11	182	Miami (Ohio)
11	McCoy, Keith	DB	5-11	172	Fresno State
12	Carnes, Chris	DB	6-4	208	LSU

NFC Central

WADE WILSON

VIKINGS 1987 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—C. Nelson, 75 points on 36 extra points and 13 field goals 9th
RUSHING—D. Nelson, 642 yards on 131 carries, 4.9 avg. 2 TDs 8th
PASSING—Wilson, 140 of 264 attempts for 2,106 yards and 14 TDs 8th
RECEIVING—Carter, 38 receptions for 922 yards, 24.3 avg., 7 TDs 19th
INTERCEPTIONS—Browner, 6 for 67 yards, 11.2 avg. 3rd
PUNTING—Coleman, 45 punts, 39.7 avg., longest 54 yards 9th
PUNT RETURN—Lewis, 22 for 275 yards, 12.5 avg., 1 TD 3rd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Guggemos, 36 for 808 yards, 22.4 avg. 5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 7 NEW ORLEANS (N)
 14 Chicago (at Gothenburg, Sweden)
 21 At Phoenix (N)
 26 MIAMI (N)

1988 SCHEDULE

1988 SCHEDULE	1987 SCORES
September 4 at Buffalo	—
11 NEW ENGLAND	—
18 at Chicago	7-27
25 PHILADELPHIA	—
October 2 at Miami	—
9 TAMPA BAY	23-17
16 GREEN BAY	16-23
23 at Tampa Bay	10-20
30 at San Francisco	—
November 6 DETROIT	34-19
13 at Dallas (N)	(OT) 44-38
20 INDIANAPOLIS	—
24 at Detroit	17-14
December 4 NEW ORLEANS	—
11 at Green Bay	10-16
19 CHICAGO (N)	24-30

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Everybody expects a lot from the Minnesota Vikings in 1988. It's because they already have such a good start on the year. After losing three of their final four regular-season contests last December and backing into the playoffs, the Vikings discovered January and Anthony Carter. They played as though they were outdoors again, enjoying the weather while their opponents froze.

First, they knocked off the Saints in the New Orleans Superdome. Then they ousted the 49ers in Candlestick Park. Finally, they came within a catch at the goal line of sending the Redskins into overtime in the NFC championship game. That's a lot closer than the Denver Broncos got in the Super Bowl.

The result of this surge sticks in the memory and erases the December collapse. It makes them the early favorites to represent the NFC in Super Bowl XXIII. History is on their side in that prediction. Three of the last four teams to lose the NFC title game have advanced the following year to the Super Bowl: The Bears, Saints, 49ers, and Redskins all enjoyed better regular seasons than the Vikings, but the Vikings had a better postseason than all but the Redskins. Since Super Bowl winners don't usually repeat, that leaves the Vikings holding the mantle.

Coach Jerry Burns wonders why. "We've played the Bears four times in the last two years and won one game," Burns said. He was counting a replacement game loss, the dirty trick that did in the Vikings last season. They were the only 2-0 pre-strike team to go 0-3 with their replacements, and the only 0-3 strike team to advance to the NFC playoffs.

Still, they had their chances in December to overtake the Bears and lost it at the goal line when they failed to score after taking four cracks at the Bear defense from the 1-yard line. This was more than a one-time problem, and if the Vikings indeed plan to knock on the Super Bowl door this year, they have to open the door at the goal line first.

Burns has the kind of problem coaches don't mind solving at quarterback, where Wade Wilson emerged as a legitimate challenger to veteran Tommy Kramer. Wilson played so well while Kramer nursed a pinched nerve in his neck that fans wondered why Burns even considered reinstating the league's leading 1986 passer. Wilson was 5-2 as a starter in the regular season and 1-1 in the postseason. Kramer started five regular-season games but finished none. After warming the bench for five years, Wilson emerged and led the league in average gain per pass. He also added a running dimension, leading the team in rushing in two games.

The amazing postseason performance of Anthony Carter made rivals wonder where he had been hiding. One of seven former USFL players acquired by the Vikings, Carter's average per catch of 24.3 yards set a club record and led the league. He thought he should be catching more. Against the Saints, he set a league playoff record of 143 yards in punt returns. Against the 49ers, he set a record for most receiving yards (227). After catching 38 passes during the 12-game regular season, he caught 23 in the postseason. He should catch more than 38 in '88.

Little Leo Lewis is the other receiver and the other third wideout. The third wideout is Hassan Jones, with depth provided by Jim Guss-

tafson and Greg Richardson. Balance in the passing game is achieved by the presence of tight end Steve Jordan, who caught 35 balls and is a consistent threat. Backups are Carl Hilton and Mike Mularkey.

Darrin Nelson dropped the pass at the goal line that could have tied the Redskins, but he is remembered for another outstanding season as an all-purpose running back. He averaged 4.9 yards a carry and was the club's third-leading pass receiver. A threat to score every time, Nelson is joined in the backfield by Alfred Anderson, Rick Fenney, and Allen Rice, depending on the situation. D. J. Dozier scored seven touchdowns as a rookie and should contribute more as a runner this year, giving the Vikings outstanding depth.

The offensive line was adequate before the draft and now has the potential to be outstanding with the addition of Arizona State guards Randall McDaniel and Todd Kalis. Burns argued for defense, saying no rookie offensive lineman would have the experience to break into the lineup this year. But in McDaniel, the Vikings got the most athletic lineman in the draft and one of the most remarkable physical specimens in years. If he can't earn a job as a starter, he will help the team's offseason basketball troupe. David Huffman and Greg Koch ended up at guard last year and Terry Tausch was injured. Randy Rasmussen and Mark MacDonald also will vie for spots. McDaniel has the speed to get outside on sweeps for Nelson. Gary Zimmerman and Tim Irwin are solid at tackle, with Zimmerman named the top lineman in the league by his peers. Kirk Lowdermilk is the center and Dennis Swiley is coming off an injury.

The defensive front of ends Doug Martin and Chris Doleman and tackles Henry Thomas and Keith Millard is one of the best in football. Doleman made the transition from linebacker to give the Vikings the pass rusher they have been seeking. He had 11 sacks and Martin had 9 while Thomas and Millard pressured inside. Millard had an outstanding post-season after an off year. To bulk up the depth provided by Stafford Mays, Tim Newton, and Gerald Robinson, the Vikings made Al Noga of the University of Hawaii their third-round draft choice. Noga is described as "so mean even his teammates seem to be afraid of him."

Linebackers David Howard, Scott Studwell, and Jesse Solomon are a solid unit. When the 34-year-old Studwell, still the glue of the defense, retires, Solomon could move inside, but this isn't the year. Chris Martin, Walker Lee, Ashley and Ray Berry are backups.

The secondary got help in the draft from second-round safety Brad Edwards of South Carolina, who could start at free safety in place of John Harris. Edwards has experience covering teammate Sterling Sharpe, who will be playing for Green Bay. Joey Browner is a Pro Bowl fixture at strong safety, but the Vi-

kings are looking for help at cornerback where Issiac Holt and Carl Lee are backed by Wymon Henderson and Wayne Smith. Steve Freeman, Neal Guggemos, and Reggie Rutland provide depth.

Changes in the special teams are anticipated with the drafting of punter Monte Robbins of Michigan in the fourth round. That would seem to mark the end of Greg Coleman's long career. After an injury, Coleman found himself behind Bucky Scribner at the end of last year. Chuck Nelson was an inadequate 13 of 24 in field goals during the regular season. During the post-season, he hit a perfect 9 for 9, typical of the Viking effort that puts them in a favorite's role. If Darrin Nelson returns kickoffs and Anthony Carter returns punts throughout the regular season this year, it is a signal that the Vikings aren't fooling around.

VIKING VETERAN SQUAD

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
46	Anderson, Alfred	RB	6-1	217	27	Baylor
53	Anno, Sam	LB	6-2	230	23	USC
58	Ashley, Walker Lee	LB	6-0	232	28	Penn State
50	Berry, Ray	LB	6-2	230	25	Baylor
19	Brim, James	WR	6-3	187	25	Wake Forest
47	Browner, Joey	S	6-2	210	28	USC
81	Carter, Anthony	WR	5-11	174	28	Michigan
8	Coleman, Greg	P	6-0	185	34	Florida A&M
56	Doleman, Chris	DE	6-5	262	27	Pittsburgh
42	Dozier, D.J.	RB	6-0	198	23	Penn State
31	Fenney, Rick	RB	6-1	240	24	Washington
62	Foole, Chris	C	6-4	265	32	USC
22	Freeman, Steve	S	5-11	185	35	Mississippi St
16	Gannon, Rich	DB	6-3	197	23	Delaware
41	Guggemos, Neal	S	6-0	190	24	St. Thomas
80	Gustafson, Jim	WR	6-1	178	27	St. Thomas
44	Harris, John	S	6-2	197	32	Arizona State
24	Henderson, Wymon	DB	5-10	186	27	Nevada-Las Vegas
82	Hilton, Carl	TE	6-3	236	24	Houston
30	Holt, Issiac	CB	6-2	199	26	Alcorn State
51	Howard, David	LB	6-2	234	27	Long Beach St
72	Huffman, David	T	6-6	285	31	Notre Dame
76	Irwin, Tim	T	6-7	290	30	Tennessee
84	Jones, Hassan	WR	6-0	196	24	Florida State
83	Jordan, Steve	TE	6-3	235	27	Brown
68	Koch, Greg	T	6-4	276	33	Arkansas
9	Kramer, Tommy	DB	6-2	192	33	Rice
39	Lee, Carl	DB	5-11	168	27	Marshall
87	Lewis, Leo	WR	5-8	167	32	Missouri
23	Love, Terry	S	6-2	205	30	Murray State
63	Lowdermilk, Kirk	C	6-3	264	25	Ohio State
71	MacDonald, Mark	G	6-4	265	27	Boston College
57	Martin, Chris	LB	6-2	231	28	Auburn
79	Martin, Doug	DE	6-3	258	31	Washington
73	Mays, Stafford	DE	6-2	264	30	Washington
75	Millard, Keith	DT	6-5	264	26	Washington St
86	Mularkey, Mike	TE	6-4	236	27	Florida
77	Mulaney, Mark	DE	6-6	242	35	Colorado State
1	Nelson, Chuck	K	5-11	175	28	Washington
20	Nelson, Darrin	RB	5-9	185	29	Stanford
96	Newton, Tim	DT	6-0	297	25	Florida
52	Rasmussen, Randy	OL	6-1	254	26	Minnesota
36	Rice, Allen	RB	5-10	206	26	Baylor
89	Richardson, Greg	WR	5-7	172	24	Alabama
95	Robinson, Gerald	DE	6-3	261	25	Auburn
13	Scribner, Bucky	P	6-0	205	28	Kansas
40	Smith, Wayne	CB	6-0	170	31	Purdue
54	Solomon, Jesse	LB	6-0	236	25	Florida State
55	Studwell, Scott	LB	6-2	229	34	Illinois
67	Swiley, Dennis	G	6-3	265	33	Texas A&M
66	Tausch, Terry	G	6-5	276	29	Texas
97	Thomas, Henry	NT	6-2	268	23	LSU
11	Wilson, Wade	QB	6-3	206	29	East Texas St
65	Zimmerman, Gary	T	6-6	284	27	Oregon

DRAFTIES

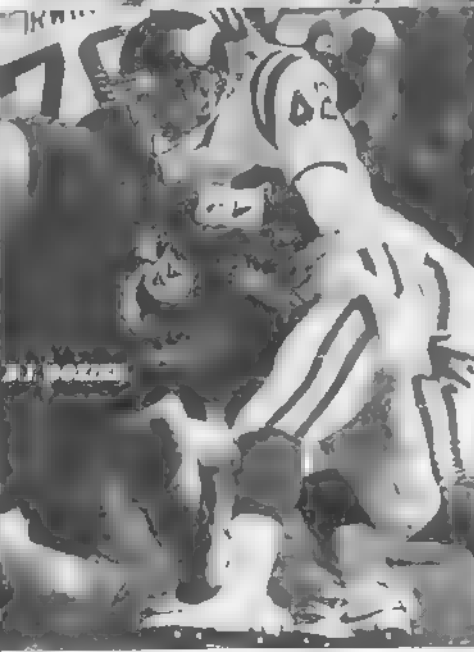
rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	McDaniel, Randall	G	6-3	258	Arizona State
2	Edwards, Brad	S	6-2	195	South Carolina
3	Noga, Al	DE	6-1	245	Hawaii
4	Kalis, Todd	G	6-6	277	Arizona State
5	Fullington, Darrell	DB	6-1	185	Miami
6	White, Derrick	DB	5-8	183	Oklahoma
7	Beckman, Brad	TE	6-2	230	Nebraska-Omaha
8	Cain, Joe	LB	6-1	225	Oregon Tech
9	McGowan, Paul	LB	5-11	220	Florida State
10	Habit, Brian	DT	6-6	270	Washington
11	Floyd, Norman	DB	6-0	192	South Carolina



ANTHONY CARTER



DARRIN NELSON



CHICAGO BEARS

Coach Mike Ditka has passed the role of divi-
sion favorites to the Minnesota Vikings and
seems relieved. No matter how much Vikings'
coach Jerry Burns protests, Ditka calls the Vi-
kings "the team to beat, no doubt about it."

The Bears are still the team to beat," coun-
tered Burns. "They just ran into the Redskins
before we did."

The Bears have been considered the No. 1
team in the league for nearly three years by
writers' polls and by fans. They roared
through the 1985 season and followed their
Super Bowl XX victory with a 14-2 record in
1986. Their opening playoff loss was forgiven
as soon as they plastered their Super Bowl
successors, the New York Giants, in the 1987
opener. That kept them No. 1 for most of last
season. The Bears have won four straight
NFC Central titles, during which they have
compiled a 29-2 division record. Yet Ditka is
happy to have Minnesota perceived as the
team on the way up, with Chicago seen as the
team on the way down.

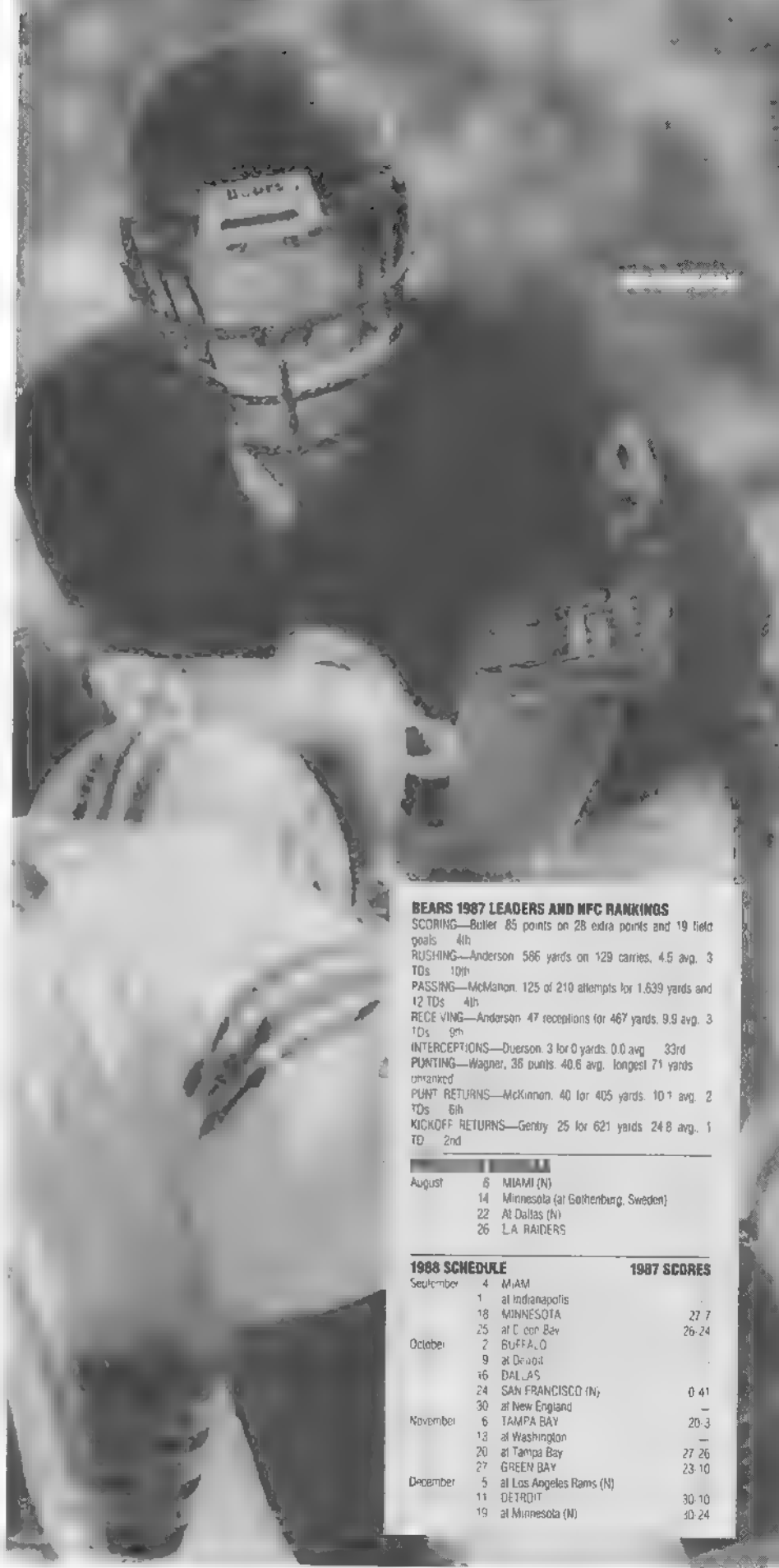
The Bears thrived in 1985 in an underdog
role encouraged by Ditka, who promotes an
us-against-them mentality. Now he has better
reason to worry about the future. Losing to the
Redskins for the second playoff opener in a
row was sobering enough. Losing linebacker
Wilber Marshall to the Redskins in a surprising
free-agent deal shook the foundation of the
franchise. Instead of alleviating salary jealou-
sy, the failure to keep Marshall appeared to
intensify problems with 20 other unsigned vet-
erans on a team that wants to save money as
much as it wants to win. There is still plenty of
talent left for the Bears to win it all and not
surprise anyone. But they must hope for a lot
of loose ends to come together in a team effort
that has been missing since Super Bowl XX.

As usual, the health of quarterback Jim Mc-
Mahon is paramount. Shoulder surgery before
last season delayed his start. Then a ham-
string injury complicated his finish. When he
returned for the playoff game against the Red-
skins, he was ineffective. Coming off another
shoulder surgery to clean up minor problems,
McMahon is looking for better luck in his sev-
enth season than he has had in the last four. In
his last 30 starts, the Bears have won 28
times, so he remains a remarkably effective
quarterback. If injury again interrupts McMa-
hon, last year's No. 1 draft choice, Jim Har-
baugh, is expected to be groomed to replace
him. Fourth-year man Mike Tomczak usually
plays well whenever asked, but free agents
usually give way to No. 1 draft choices.

The Bears must learn to live without the re-
tired Walter Payton for the first time since
1974. It will be an adjustment more difficult
than most imagine. To ease the transition, the
Bears drafted Stanford fullback Brad Muster
and LSU receiver Wendell Davis in the first
round. "We are not going to be a team that
can rely on one man carrying the ball 30 times
a game," Ditka said.

Tailbacks Neal Anderson and Thomas
Sanders both are promising runners, but Pay-
ton was unprecedented and it would be unfair
to expect anyone like him coming around
again in this century. "There will never be an-
other Walter Payton," Ditka said. "So when
people start comparing backs and they say
he's not a Payton, it will be an injustice."

Anderson will benefit from a return to tail-
back from the fullback spot he tried to play



BEARS 1987 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Butler, 85 points on 28 extra points and 19 field goals. 4th
RUSHING—Anderson, 586 yards on 129 carries, 4.5 avg. 3 TDs. 10th
PASSING—McMahon, 125 of 210 attempts for 1,639 yards and 12 TDs. 4th
RECEIVING—Anderson, 47 receptions for 467 yards, 9.9 avg. 3 TDs. 9th
INTERCEPTIONS—Duerson, 3 for 0 yards, 0.0 avg. 33rd
PUNTING—Wagner, 38 punts, 40.6 avg., longest 71 yards. 23rd
PUNT RETURNS—McKinnon, 40 for 405 yards, 10.1 avg. 2 TDs. 6th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Gentry, 25 for 621 yards, 24.8 avg., 1 TD. 2nd

August	6	MIAMI (N)
	14	Minnesota (at Gothenburg, Sweden)
	22	At Dallas (N)
	26	LA RAIDERS

1988 SCHEDULE 1987 SCORES

September	4	at MIAMI	
	11	at Indianapolis	
	18	MINNESOTA	27-7
	25	at Cleveland	26-24
October	2	BUFFALO	
	9	at Detroit	
	16	DALLAS	
	24	SAN FRANCISCO (N)	0-41
	30	at New England	
November	6	TAMPA BAY	20-3
	13	at Washington	
	20	at Tampa Bay	27-26
	27	GREEN BAY	23-10
December	5	at Los Angeles Rams (N)	
	11	DETROIT	30-10
	19	at Minnesota (N)	30-24

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last year. Fullbacks Matt Suhey and Calvin Thomas will fight for playing time with the arrival of Muster, an all-round talent who will give Ditka versatility in the passing attack.

Davis will join a corps of receivers that is a team strength if all of them sign. Willie Gault remains the one man defenses most fear. He enters his sixth healthy season and may benefit most by the absence of Payton. Veteran Dennis McKinnon and second-year man Ron Morris shared the flanker spot last year, while former running back Dennis Gentry remains one of the league's most dangerous third-down specialists. Ditka is looking for help at tight end, where fourth-rounder Jim Thornton

could surprise. Cap Boso and Emery Moorehead shared the position last year.

The offensive line is entering its fifth year as a unit, but it is coming off a year plagued by injuries. Left tackle Jim Covert played last season despite a fractured shoulder that required surgery. Center Jay Hogenberg had shoulder and elbow surgery. Right tackle Keith Van Horne and right guard Tom Thayer both underwent less serious operations. Left guard Mark Bortz escaped the knife.

Ditka worries a little about a defense that used to be overwhelming and is now merely outstanding. Because it has played so well, the Bears have drafted too low to get any first-round help for three years. The line of ends Richard Dent and Al Harris and tackles Dan Hampton, Steve McMichael, and William Perry led the team to a league-high 70 sacks last year, but Ditka fears the inevitable age creeping up. He made Temple's Ralph Jarvis a surprise third-round choice in hopes of discovering another Dent. After benching Perry late last year because he weighed around 360, Ditka claimed it was a mistake because Perry played too well.

Despite the loss of Marshall, three linebackers remain with talent and experience, led by middle man Mike Singletary, the heart of the defense. Left linebacker Otis Wilson was benched late in the year in favor of Ron Rivera, who is expected to move to the right side to fill Marshall's spot. With the inexperienced Jim Morrissey the only viable backup, the Bears made Oklahoma's Dante Jones their second-round pick.

Help at cornerback is crucial, and the Bears hope they get it from veteran Mike Richardson, who was unhappy and unsigned until the end of last training camp, when he came back for a one-year contract. Vestee Jackson started on the right side, where Reggie Phillips, Maurice Douglass, and late draft choice Lemuel Stinson of Texas Tech will compete. The retirement of free safety Gary Fencik also will create a leadership void on the field that Shaun Gayle should be able to fill. Strong safety Dave Duerson is a Pro Bowl talent.

The Bears won 11 games last year despite finishing at minus 20 in turnover ratio. Only the Falcons were worse at minus 22. Ditka called it a miracle that his team was able to overcome the turnovers. "We weren't a team that intercepted the ball and created fumbles. Therefore, without the turnovers we were on

the field a lot more. We went from a team that allowed only one TD pass every 37 attempts in 1986 to allowing one TD pass every 16 attempts in 1987."

Place-kicker Kevin Butler will try to avoid the occasional slump that keeps him from being the best. Punters Tommy Barnhardt and Bryan Wagner will compete. Gentry is as good a kickoff return man as there is, and McKinnon returned two punts for touchdowns until tiring off. Lew Barnes could challenge if he recuperates from a broken leg. Coverage teams are generally good, but a punt return by Washington's Darrell Green knocked the Bears out of the playoffs last year.



DENNIS
MCKINNON

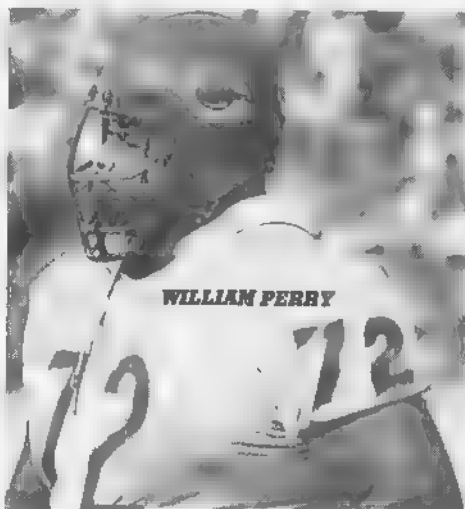


MIKE SINGLETARY



STEVE
MCMICHAEL

RICHARD DENT



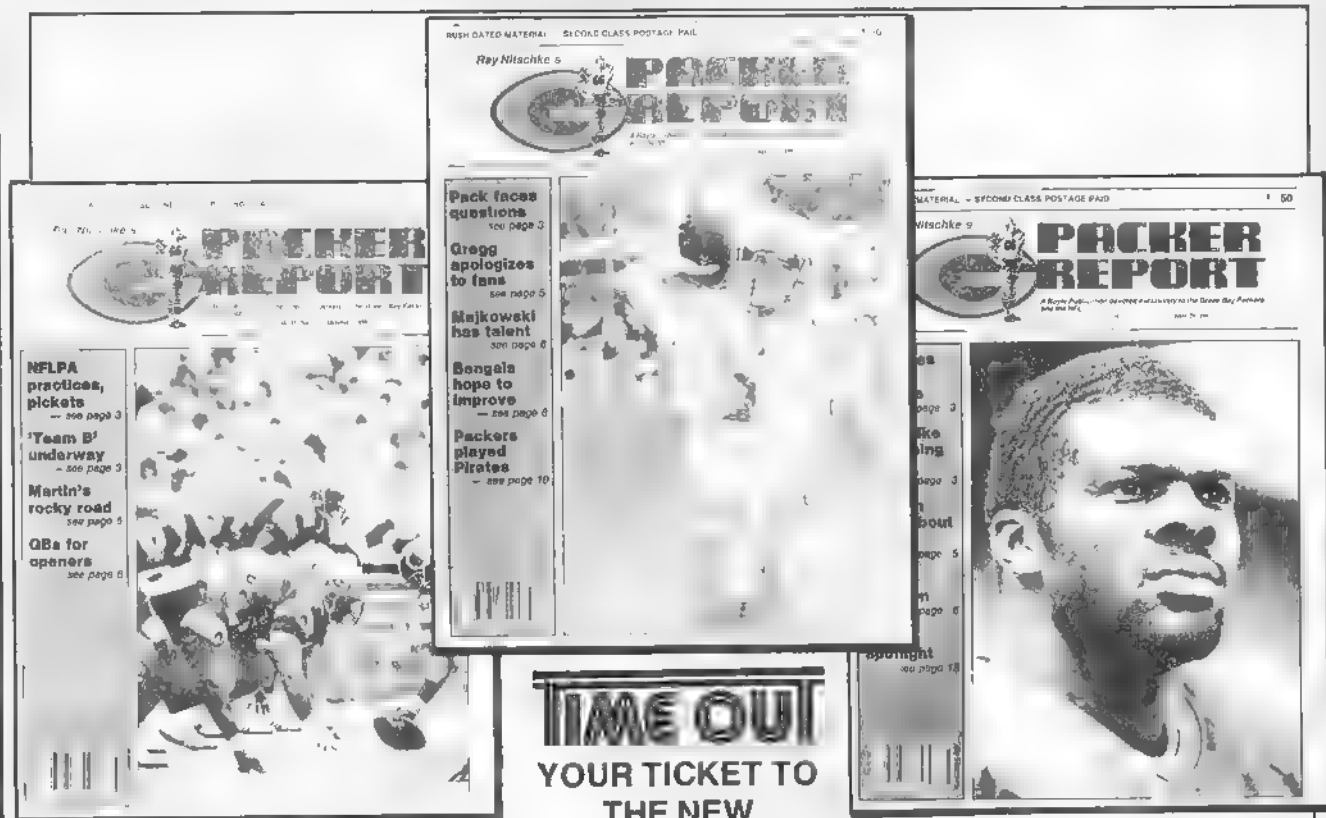
WILLIAM PERRY

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
54	Adickes, John	C	6-3	264	24	Baylor
47	Allen, Egypil	QB	6-0	203	24	TCU
70	Althoff, Jim	DT	6-3	278	27	Winona State
35	Anderson, Neal	RB	5-11	210	24	Florida
81	Barnes, Lew	WR	5-8	160	26	Oregon
17	Barnhardt, Tommy	P	6-3	205	25	North Carolina
79	Becker, Kurt	G	6-5	280	30	Michigan
68	Blair, Paul	T	6-4	295	25	Oklahoma St.
62	Bortz, Mark	G	6-5	275	27	Iowa
86	Boso, Cap	TE	6-3	224	26	Illinois
6	Butler, Kevin	K	6-1	204	26	Georgia
94	Chappas, Dick	DT	6-3	280	24	Missouri
74	Covert, Jim	T	6-4	275	28	Pittsburgh
95	Dent, Richard	DE	6-5	263	28	Tenn. State
37	Douglass, Maurice	DB	5-11	200	24	Kentucky
22	Duerson, Dave	S	6-1	210	28	Noire Dame
83	Gault, Willie	WR	6-1	183	28	Tennessee
23	Gayle, Shaun	S	5-11	193	26	Ohio St.
29	Gentry, Dennis	WR	5-8	180	29	Baylor
99	Hampton, Dan	DE	6-5	257	31	Arkansas
4	Harbaugh, Jim	QB	6-3	202	25	Michigan
90	Harris, Al	DE	6-5	270	32	Arizona State
63	Hogenberg, Jay	C	6-3	260	28	Iowa
24	Jackson, Vestee	CB	6-0	186	25	Washington
93	Johnson, Willie	LB	6-4	245	24	NE Louisiana
88	Kozlowski, Glen	WR	6-1	180	25	BYU
43	Lynch, Lorenzo	DB	5-8	197	25	Sacramento St.
	McKinnon, Dennis	CB	6-0	180	27	Florida
85	McKinnon, Dennis	WR	5-1	185	27	Florida State
9	McMahon, Jim	QB	6-1	190	29	BYU
76	McMichael, Steve	DT	6-2	265	31	Texas
87	Moorehead, Emery	TE	6-2	225	34	Colorado
84	Morris, Ron	WR	6-1	187	24	SMU
51	Morrissey, Jim	LB	6-3	222	26	Michigan State
46	Mosley, Anthony	RB	5-9	204	19	Fresno State
91	Novell, Jay	LB	6-2	232	25	Iowa
69	Ortogo, Keith	WR	6-0	180	25	McNeese State
94	Patterson, Varlo	WR	5-11	185	24	West Texas St.
72	Perry, William	OT	6-2	315	26	Clemson
48	Phillips, Reggie	DE	5-10	170	28	SMU
27	Richardson, Mike	CB	6-0	188	27	Arizona St.
59	Rivera, Ron	LB	6-3	235	28	California
53	Rodenhauser, Mark	C	6-5	280	27	Illinois State
52	Rubens, Larry	C	6-2	262	29	Montana State
20	Sanders, Thomas	RB	5-11	203	26	Texas A & M
50	Singletary, Mike	LB	6-0	235	30	Baylor
60	Smith, Keith	DL/TE	6-5	240	30	Texas El Paso
97	Smith, Sean	DE	6-4	275	23	Grambling
26	Suhey, Matt	FB	5-11	216	30	Penn. State
57	Thayer, Tom	G	6-4	280	27	Noire Dame
33	Thomas, Calvin	FB	5-1	245	28	Illinois
8	Tomczak, Mike	QB	6-1	185	26	Ohio State
78	Van Horne, Keith	T	6-6	285	31	USC
15	Wagner, Bryan	P	6-2	195	26	Cal St. N. Ridge
55	Wilson, Otis	LB	6-2	227	31	Louisville
73	Wojciechowski, John	G	6-4	262	25	Michigan State

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Musior, Brad	FB	6-3	220	Stanford
1	Davis, Wendell	WR	5-11	190	LSU
2	Jones, Dante	LB	6-1	225	Oklahoma
3	Jarvis, Ralph	DE	6-5	245	Temple
4	Thornton, Jim	TE	6-2	242	Cal-Fullerton
5	Johnson, Troy	LB	5-1	220	Oklahoma
6	Stinson, Lemuel	QB	5-9	161	Texas Tech
7	Rennie, Caesar	OT	6-2	290	Oklahoma
8	Tale, David	QB	6-0	180	Colorado
9	Reed, Harvey	RB	5-11	176	Howard
9	Mages, Rogie	WR	6-2	209	LSU
10	Porter, Joel	QB	6-3	274	Baylor
11	Forch, Steve	LB	6-2	240	Nebraska
12	Clark, Greg	LB	6-1	225	Arizona State

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DOWN ANY BUCKEERS

The Buccaneers are starting over again. They took their first step under coach Ray Perkins a year ago and now must step back and make another run at it. They started 1987 with Steve DeBerg at quarterback and played well early. But a collapse at midseason hurt their confidence and forced them to regroup. They will start '88 with Vinny Testaverde at quarterback. The future isn't now, but it's coming.

"We have a good nucleus, a good foundation," Perkins said. "Now it is time to build on it. We have a lot of work ahead of us to be successful in such a strong division. But we are on the right track." The foundation was broadened in the draft to include Wisconsin offensive tackle Paul Gruber, a man who can protect Testaverde on the left side of the line.

By the end of last season, the Bucs were the youngest team in the NFL. The squad's average age was 25 and there were 18 rookies on the 50-man roster. That's young enough to rebound quickly from a crisis in confidence that put a damper on a promising 1987.

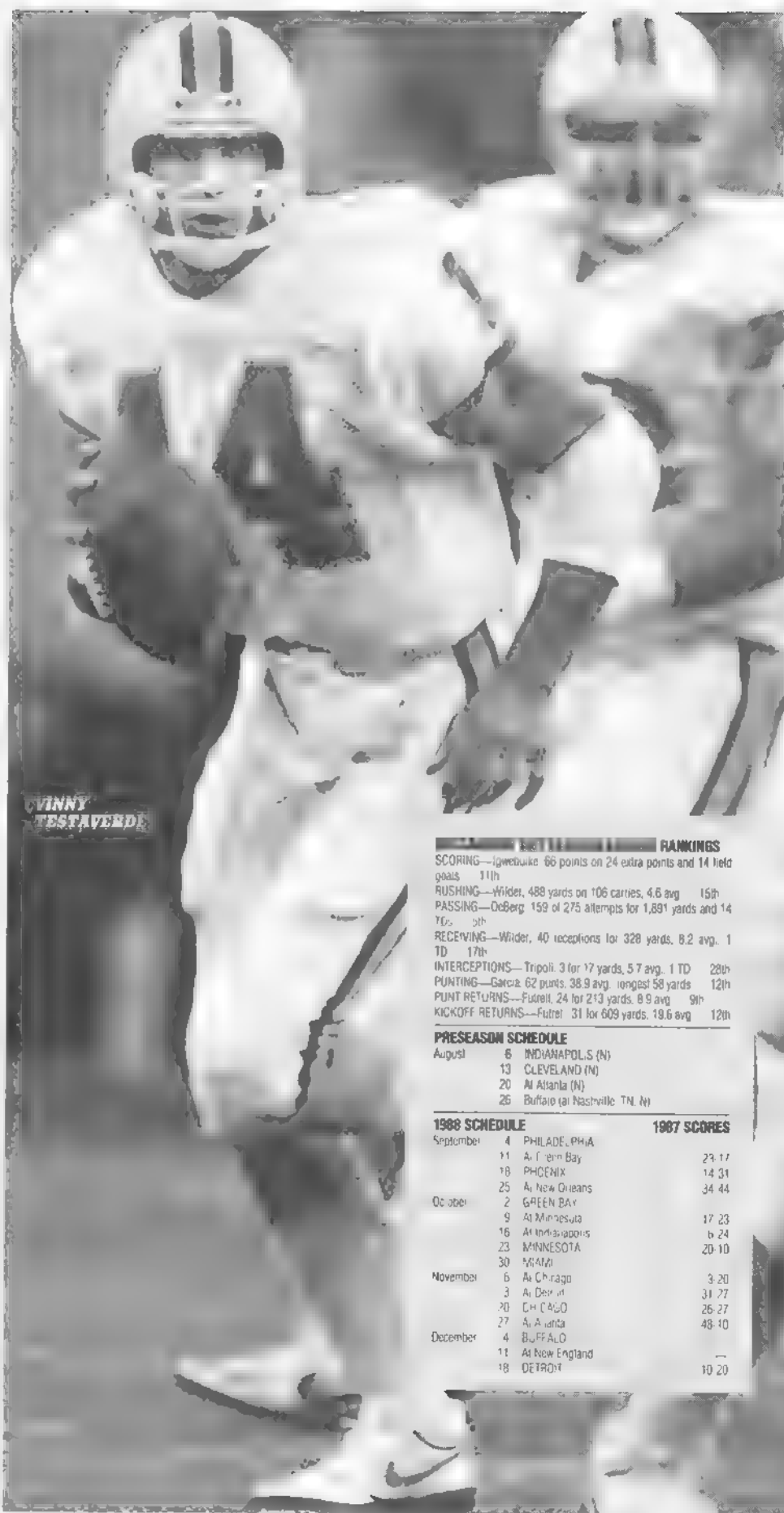
After a stunning 48-10 opening victory over the Atlanta Falcons and a tough loss to the Bears in Chicago, the strike interrupted the routine that Perkins had instilled with a rigorous training camp. After the strike, the Bucs beat Green Bay on the road and were a heady 4-3 going into St. Louis. Then, leading the Cardinals, 28-3, starting the fourth quarter, the Buccaneers' season fell apart. The Cardinals scored 28 points in the game's final 12 minutes to win 31-28, in the greatest comeback in NFL history. Once again, the Bucs were on the wrong page of the record book. They didn't win another game, finishing at 4-11. "If I believed in turning points, I'd say that was probably it," Perkins said.

Testaverde started the final four games. He passed for 369 yards in his debut as a starter against the New Orleans Saints, displaying at least some of the talent everybody predicts and expects. The Bucs are confident enough in his progress to have traded DeBerg to the Kansas City Chiefs before the draft. As usual, DeBerg proved a willing and able stand-in until Testaverde got his shot. Veteran Joe Ferguson was added as the backup.

"Vinny has great poise and an exceptional feel for the game," Perkins said. "He can sense the pass rush at the same time that he is making accurate reads about coverage. He needs to refine some mechanical things and continue to gain experience, but he is on track to the greatness we all feel he is capable of achieving."

Protecting him is so important that Perkins contradicted his philosophy of ignoring offensive linemen early in the draft to take Gruber, "a very unusual talent." The Bucs passed up wide receivers Tim Brown and Sterling Sharpe to make Gruber the fourth player selected. "I like to play percentages. A guy with his caliber of talent doesn't come along that often. Wide receivers come out every year," said Perkins, a former wide receiver.

Besides allowing 46 sacks, the Bucs ranked 26th among 28 teams in rushing offense last year. "It really doesn't matter what kind of receiving corps you have if the quarterback is lying on his back," Perkins said. Gruber will line up at left tackle, where five Bucs shared the job last year. In a division that includes Minnesota's Chris Doleman and Chicago's Richard Dent rushing the passer from



VINNY TESTAVERDE

RANKINGS

SCORING—Jgwebake: 66 points on 24 extra points and 14 field goals. 11th
RUSHING—Wilder, 488 yards on 106 carries, 4.6 avg. 15th
PASSING—DeBerg: 159 of 275 attempts for 1,891 yards and 14 TDs. 5th
RECEIVING—Wilder, 40 receptions for 328 yards, 8.2 avg. 1 TD. 17th
INTERCEPTIONS—Tripoli, 3 for 17 yards, 5.7 avg. 1 TD. 28th
PUNTING—Garcia, 62 punts, 38.9 avg., longest 58 yards. 12th
PUNT RETURNS—Fulreil, 24 for 213 yards, 8.9 avg. 9th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Fulreil, 31 for 609 yards, 19.6 avg. 12th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 6 INDIANAPOLIS (N)
13 CLEVELAND (N)
20 At Atlanta (N)
26 Buffalo (at Nashville, TN, N)

1988 SCHEDULE

		1987 SCORES
September	4 PHILADELPHIA	
	11 At Green Bay	29-17
	18 PHOENIX	14-31
	25 At New Orleans	34-44
October	2 GREEN BAY	
	9 At Minnesota	17-23
	16 At Indianapolis	6-24
	23 MINNESOTA	20-10
	30 KANSAS CITY	
November	6 At Chicago	3-20
	13 At Detroit	31-27
	20 CHICAGO	26-27
	27 At Atlanta	48-10
December	4 BUFFALO	
	11 At New England	—
	18 DETROIT	10-20

that side left tackle is critical to a quarterback's health. Guards George Yarno and Rick Malory surround center Randy Grimes. Mark Cooper, J.D. Maarleveld, and Rob Taylor will compete for the right-tackle job. Center-guards Dan Turk and Conrad Goode provide depth.

In the second round of the draft, the Bucs took Georgia running back Lars Tate to shore up another area of concern. With James Wilder aging and last year's second-rounder, Don Smith, recovering from career-threatening back surgery, Tate could see immediate duty. Jeff Smith is a short-yardage runner and Cliff Austin, Bobby Howard, Steve Bartalo, Eddie Hunter, Adrian Wright, and James Evans are backups. Fourth-rounder William Howard is a 240-pounder from Tennessee.

"We have a hard-working group of running backs who can do some very good things. We need to find more speed," Perkins said.

Another reason the Bucs could pass up receivers in the draft is the success they found last year with Mark Carrier, Bruce Hill, and tight end Ron Hall. Carrier and Hill combined for 49 receptions and Hall added 16. They complemented vets Gerald Carter and Phil Freeman at wide receiver and Calvin Magee, who developed into one of the league's leading tight ends. Carrier's 8-catch, 212-yard game against New Orleans demonstrated his rapport with Testaverde. Hill came off injured reserve and had 17 receptions in the Bucs' final four games.

The defense moved from 28th to 16th in the NFL, thanks to improvement on the line, where it all starts. Ron Holmes, the club's top draft choice in 1985, had eight sacks in 10 games and finally realized some of his potential. "As he continues to improve and strengthen himself, I expect him to become one of the best in the league," Perkins said. John Cannon is the left end and Kevin Kellin backs up both sides. Nose tackle Mike Stensrud will be challenged by two second-year players, Dan Sileo and Curt Jarvis. "Like most teams, we could use more pass rushers," Perkins said.

The Bucs enjoy considerable depth and experience at linebacker, where inside starter Ervin Randle developed into one of the NFL's best. Jeff Davis and Scot Brantley split time beside Randle on the inside. Chris Washington had 6½ sacks from his right linebacker spot. "He seems to be a real veteran in com-

parison to some of the others and yet he has only played four years," Perkins said. Jackie Walker and Winston Moss split time at the other outside spot and Kevin Murphy also saw action outside.

At cornerback, young Ricky Reynolds and Rod Jones appear to have a bright future. Reynolds had an outstanding year for a rookie. "When he starts catching the ball, he now is deflecting. He is really going to be something," Perkins said. The safety position, manned by Bobby Kemp, Ray Isom, and Paul Tripoli in '87, needs improvement.

Special teams were a problem last year. Punter Frank Garcia had a net average of only 28 yards. Place-kicker Donald Igwebuike was much better, converting 14 of 18 field goals and continuing a three-year string of never missing from inside 34 yards. But his kickoffs were inconsistent.

"I thought Bobby Futrell did a good job as a punt and kick returner," Perkins said. "Dan Turk is a big-league deep snapper. But there were other areas of our kicking game that gave me concern last year and we will be looking to improve."



JEFF DAVIS



BUCCANEERS VETERAN ROSTER

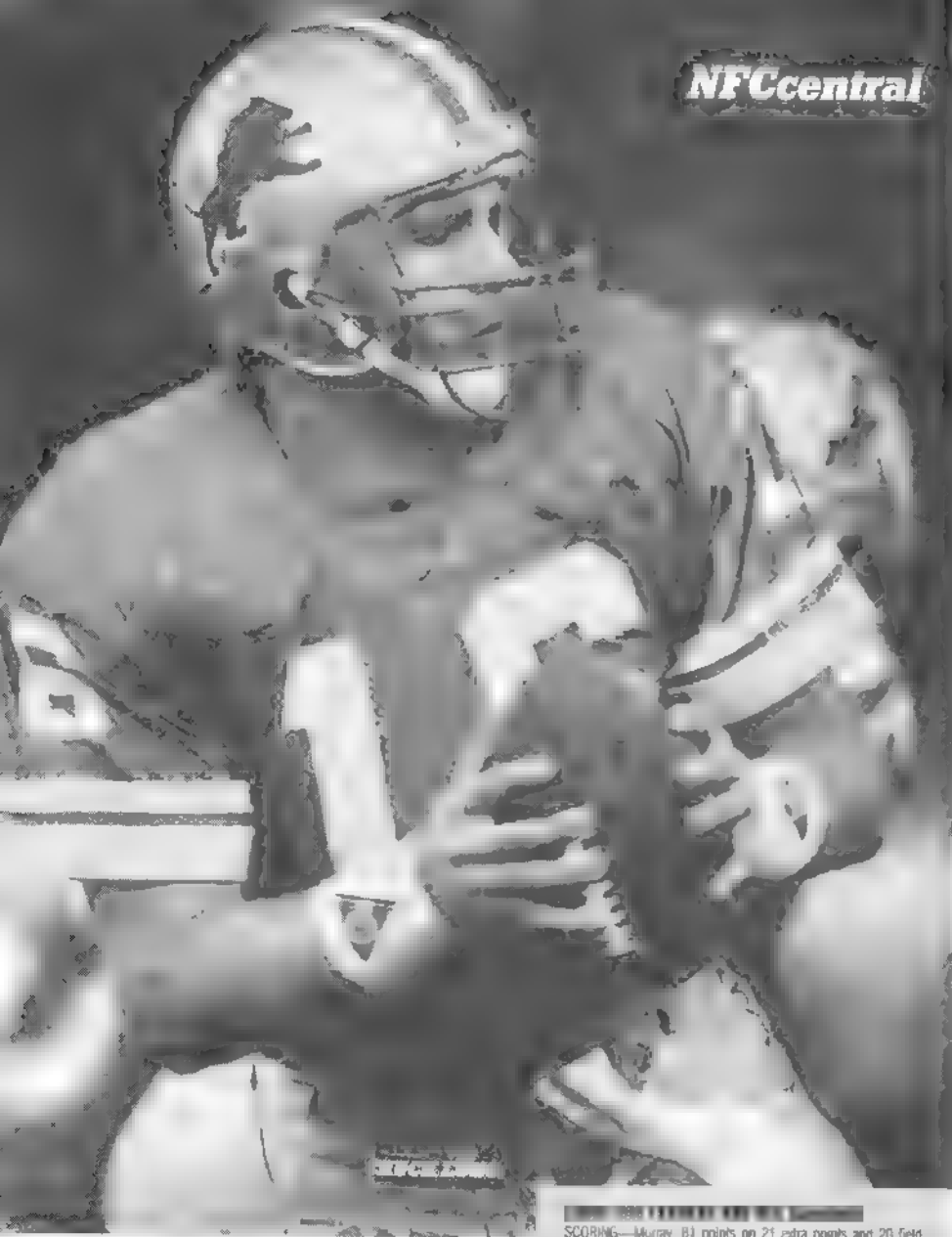
no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
20	Austin, Cliff	HB	6-0	190	28	Clemson
52	Brantley, Scot	LB	6-1	230	30	Florida
78	Cannon, John	DE	6-5	260	28	William & Mary
89	Carrier, Mark	WR	6-0	182	23	Nicholls St.
87	Carter, Gerald	WR	6-1	190	31	Texas A&M
71	Cooper, Mark	T	6-5	270	28	Miami
13	Criswell, Ray	P	6-0	189	25	Florida
58	Davis, Jeff	LB	6-0	230	28	Clemson
	Edwards, Randy	NT	6-4	267	27	Alabama
38	Evans, James	FB	6-0	220	25	Southern
	Ferguson, Joe	QB	6-1	195	37	Arkansas
81	Freeman, Phil	WR	5-11	185	26	Arizona
36	Futrell, Bobby	DB	5-11	190	26	Elizabeth City St.
91	Gant, Brian	LB	6-0	235	25	Illinois State
79	Goode, Conrad	CL	6-6	285	26	Missouri
31	Gordon, Sonny	DB	5-11	192	23	Ohio State
53	Graham, Don	LB	6-2	244	24	Penn State
60	Grimes, Randy	C	6-4	270	28	Baylor
82	Hall, Ron	TE	6-4	238	24	Hawaii
5	Herline, Alan	P	6-0	170	24	Vanderbilt
84	Hill, Bruce	WR	6-0	175	24	Arizona St.
7	Hold, Mike	QB	5-11	190	25	South Carolina
90	Holmes, Ron	DE	6-4	265	25	Washington
25	Howard, Bobby	RB	6-0	210	24	Indiana
37	Hunter, Eddie	RB	5-10	195	23	Virginia Tech
1	Igwebuike, Donald	PK	5-9	185	28	Clemson
28	Isom, Ray	DB	5-9	190	23	Penn State
95	Jarvis, Curt	DL	6-2	265	23	Alabama
22	Jones, Rod	DB	6-0	175	24	SML
75	Kellin, Kevin	DE	6-5	250	29	Minnesota
33	Kemp, Bobby	DB	6-0	190	29	Cal. Fullerton
77	Maarleveld, J.D.	OT	6-6	300	27	Maryland
86	Maga, Calvin	TE	6-3	240	25	Southern
68	Mallory, Rick	G	6-2	265	28	Washington
99	McHale, Tom	DE	6-4	275	25	Cornell
83	Miller, Solomon	WR	6-1	185	24	Utah State
57	Moss, Winston	LB	6-3	235	23	Miami
59	Murphy, Kevin	LB	6-2	230	25	Oklahoma
64	Randle, Ervin	LB	6-1	250	26	Baylor
29	Reynolds, Ricky	DB	5-11	182	23	Washington State
30	Robinson, Mark	S	5-11	202	25	Penn State
93	Sileo, Dan	NT	6-2	282	24	Miami
47	Smith, Don	RB	5-11	199	25	Mississippi St.
35	Smith, Jeff	RB	5-9	204	26	Nebraska
70	Swayne, Harry	DE	6-5	268	23	Rutgers
85	Taylor, Gene	WR	6-2	189	26	Fresno St.
72	Taylor, Rob	OT	6-6	285	28	Northwestern
14	Testaverde, Vinny	QB	6-5	220	25	Miami
24	Tripoli, Paul	DB	6-0	197	27	Alabama
50	Turk, Dan	C	6-4	260	26	Wisconsin
56	Walker, Jackie	LB	6-5	245	26	Jackson St.
51	Washington, Chris	LB	6-4	230	26	Iowa State
32	Wilder, James	RB	6-3	225	30	Missouri
3	Williams, Keith	RB	5-10	173	24	SW Missouri St.
4	Wright, Adrian	RB	6-1	230	25	Virginia Union
66	Yarno, George	OG	6-2	265	31	Washington St.

DRAFT PICKS

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Gruber, Paul	T	6-4	293	Wisconsin
2	Tate, Lars	RB	6-1	206	Georgia
4	Goff, Robert	DT	6-3	262	Autumn
4	Bruton, John	G	6-3	275	Tennessee
4	Robbins, Monte	P	6-4	202	Michigan
5	Howard, William	RB	6-0	242	Tennessee
6	Lee, Shawn	DT	6-3	265	North Alabama
7	Goode, Kerry	RB	5-11	200	Alabama
8	Simpson, Anthony	RB	5-10	245	East Carolina
9	Davis, Reuben	DT	6-3	280	North Carolina
11	Pittow, Frank	WR	5-10	170	Tennessee State
12	Jones, Victor	LB	6-2	244	Virginia Tech



JEFF SMITH



DETROIT LIONS

If things are bound to get better after they get worse, coach Darryl Rogers and the Detroit Lions are in for a pleasant 1988. Rogers was 7-9 in his first season, 5-11 in his second, and 4-11 in his third. That he still has a job is a tribute to the optimism and patience of owner William Clay Ford.

If Rogers is to last until his fifth season, the Lions have to at least start beating the Green Bay Packers and Tampa Bay Buccaneers within their division. The only division game they won with regulars last year was against the Bucs in a December finish that was more promising than usual. They won two of their last three games and lost to the Minnesota Vikings, 17-14. It marked the first time since 1983 the Lions had won a game in December.

While the Vikings and Chicago Bears might still remain out of reach, the Lions must crawl before they walk. As usual, they seem to have at least a nucleus of talent capable of challenging, buoyed by three of the top 32 picks in the 1988 draft: Miami safety Bennie Blades, Ohio State linebacker Chris Spielman, and Florida State tight end Pat Carter.

They still hope to put it all together under Rogers. Ford, who referred to his team as "lousy" after an early one-point loss to Green Bay, must have figured by season's end that Rogers was a victim of circumstances that couldn't possibly repeat themselves in 1988. Besides the strike, which destroyed the continuity of most clubs, the Lions got nothing out of their 1987 first-round draftee, defensive end Reggie Rogers. Expected to be an immediate impact player, Rogers played in only six games and spent 30 days away from the team for personal and emotional counseling. Defensive coordinator Wayne Fontes pleaded guilty to one charge of drunken driving. Tight end Jimmie Gries walked out because he wasn't playing enough and was traded to the Philadelphia Eagles.

On the brighter side, quarterback Chuck Long enters his third year and second as a full-time starter. He took every snap in 1987 and displayed the promise the Lions saw when they selected him No. 1 in 1986. Long is coming off a statistically below-average performance that included a league-leading 20 interceptions. But the experience, which he never got as a rookie, is more important to his development at this stage. With continued improvement and consistency, quarterback is one position where the Lions can legitimately compete against other division rivals.

"Chuck Long had a good season and I feel he will improve," Rogers said. "His interception total was high, but at least three of them were 'Hair Mary' passes and another three or four were deflected off our receivers and intercepted. When you consider that, you realize Chuck did not throw a lot of bad balls."

Eric Hipple, who was supposed to challenge Long, dislocated his thumb and missed the entire season, but he is back to give the Lions a sense of security at the game's most vital position.

Rogers has enough confidence in his quarterbacking to make this declaration: "If we're going to be a good football team, Garry James has to produce." James is the speedy tailback who has been nagged by injuries for his first two years. If James can stay healthy enough to complement fullback James Jones, the offense will improve everywhere. Jones's production slipped last season, but he still led the club in rushing and was second in receiving. "I still feel he's one of the best fullbacks in the NFL," Rogers said. Gary Ellerson proved a good pickup from the Packers and Scott Williams, Tony Paige, Karl Bernard, and Butch Woolfolk will battle for reserve duty.

Healthy receivers also are on the wish list. With Jeff Chadwick and Mark Nichols both carrying a history of injuries, the Lions drafted Penn State's Ray Roundtree in the third round to push Carl Bland and Gary Lee. Pete Mandley, last year's best receiver, is the leading scorer and also returns punts. "He really has come a long way," Rogers said.

Rogers called tight end his weakest position before the draft, when outstanding blocker Carter came aboard. The Lions also re-signed David Hill, who was cut loose by the Rams. He will compete with Rob Rubick, Mark Lewis, and Vyto Kab.

The offensive line is the strong suit of the club, a convenience for young Long. But health is again a question. In recent years, they have started so many different units they can't keep track. Tackles Lomas Brown and

SCORING—Murray: 81 points on 21 extra points and 20 field goals. 7th.
RUSHING—Jones: 342 yards on 96 carries, 3.6 avg. 22nd.
PASSING—Long: 232 of 416 attempts for 2,598 yards and 11 TDs. 13th.
RECEIVING—Mandley: 58 receptions for 720 yards, 12.4 avg. 7 TDs. 5th.
INTERCEPTIONS—Griffin: 6 for 130 yards, 21.7 avg. 2nd.
PUNTING—Amond: 46 punts, 43.6 avg., longest 60 yards. 2nd.
PLA., RET. P.S.—Mandley: 25 of 150 yards, 10.9 avg. 5th.
KICKOFF RETURNS—Lee: 32 for 119 yards, 2.5 avg. 4th.

SCHEDULE	
August	6 at Cleveland (H)
	11 SEATTLE (H)
	20 at Cincinnati (A)
	25 PHILADELPHIA (H)

1988 SCHEDULE		1987 SCORES	
September	4 ATLANTA	30-13	
	11 at Los Angeles Rams	16-37	
	18 NEW ORLEANS	—	
	25 NEW YORK JETS	—	
October	2 at San Francisco	—	
	9 CHICAGO	—	
	16 at New York Giants	—	
	23 at Kansas City	20-27	
	30 NEW YORK GIANTS	—	
November	6 at Minnesota	19-34	
	13 TAMPA BAY	27-31	
	20 vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee	(OT) 19-16	
	24 MINNESOTA	14-17	
December	4 GREEN BAY	33-34	
	11 at Chicago	10-30	
	18 at Tampa Bay	20-10	

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Harvey Salem are outstanding with veteran Eric Sanders a capable backup. Kevin Glover will play either guard or center, with Keith Dorney at the other guard and Joe Milnichik and Steve Baack fighting for starting jobs.

The defensive line isn't as promising. "This is an area of concern for us," Rogers said. Nose tackle Jerry Ball played well as a rookie and left end Eric Williams played consistently. Keith Ferguson is a good pass rusher from the right side, but the Lions planned for Reggie Rogers to take over there. "We weren't satisfied with his performance and neither was Reggie. We feel he'll be much better this year," coach Rogers said. New defensive line coach Dick Modzelewski will have his hands full trying to develop Rogers. Curtis Green and Dan Saleaumua provide depth.

Linebackers are a relative strength, made stronger with the addition of the intense Spielman. Last year's eighth-round draft choice,

Dennis Gibson played so well inside that he helped ease the disappointment of No. 1 pick Rogers. "If Gibson was our No. 1 draft choice last season and played the same way he did, everyone would be telling us what an exceptional draft we had in 1987," Rogers said. With Spielman playing beside Gibson and Michael Cofer and Jimmy Williams outside, the Lions will take a back seat to no one at linebacker. Cofer is an excellent pass rusher and one of football's overlooked stars, giving great effort on every play. Williams came into his own and was named defensive MVP by teammates.

Blades will help an area that is "a serious question mark," Rogers said. Blades is pro-

jected as a safety, but he might have to play corner to be of the most help. Corner Bobby Watkins was hurt and corner Bruce McNorton had an off year. Free safety Devon Mitchell missed the season with injury and is questionable. Raphael Cherry and James Griffin are the incumbent safeties.

The punting of Jim Arnold was one of Detroit's pleasant surprises last year. Rogers called special-teams play, led by head-hunter Paul Butcher, "the best it has been since I have been with the Lions." That's a good sign, because it is a key indication of overall team enthusiasm. Place-kicker Eddie Murray is coming back from an off year, but is one of the steadier kickers in the league.

"We all feel we can be very competitive this year," Rogers said. "No one is expecting much from us, but we know we can be successful in 1988."



LIONS/TEXAS ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
6	Arnold, Jim	P	6-3	211	27	Vanderbilt
68	Baack, Steve	G	6-4	265	28	Oregon
93	Ball, Jerry	NT	6-1	283	24	SMU
61	Barrows, Scott	G-C	6-2	278	25	West Virginia
25	Bernard, Carl	RB	5-11	205	24	SW Louisiana
80	Bland, Karl	WR	5-11	182	27	Virginia Union
75	Brown, Lomas	T	6-4	282	25	Florida
96	Butcher, Paul	LB	6-0	219	25	Wayne State
89	Chadwick, Jeff	WR	6-3	190	28	Grand Valley State
45	Cherry, Raphael	S	6-0	194	27	Hawaii
55	Cofer, Michael	LB	6-5	245	28	Tennessee
70	Dorney, Keith	G-T	6-5	285	31	Penn State
42	Ellerson, Gary	RB	5-11	220	25	Wisconsin
77	Ferguson, Keith	DE	6-5	260	29	Ohio State
40	Galloway, Duane	DB	5-8	181	27	Arizona State
98	Gibson, Dennis	LB	6-2	240	24	Iowa State
53	Glover, Kevin	OL	6-2	287	25	Maryland
62	Green, Curtis	DE	6-3	265	31	Alabama State
34	Griffin, James	S	6-2	197	27	Mid. Tennessee St.
17	Hipple, Eric	DB	6-2	198	31	Utah State
33	Jones, Gary	RB	5-10	214	25	Louisiana State
58	Jamison, George	LB	6-1	226	26	Cincinnati
30	Jones, James	FB	6-2	229	27	Florida
87	Kab, Vito	TE	6-5	240	29	Penn State
83	Lee, Gary	WR	6-1	202	23	Georgia Tech
81	Lewis, Mark	TE	6-2	250	27	Texas A&M
50	Lockett, Danny	LB	6-2	228	24	Arizona
16	Long, Chuck	QB	6-4	211	25	Iowa
82	Mandley, Pete	WR	5-10	191	27	Northern Arizona
57	Maxwell, Vernon	LB	6-2	235	27	Arizona State
29	McNorton, Bruce	CB	5-11	175	29	Georgetown (Ky.)
74	Milnichik, Joe	OL	6-5	275	25	N.C. St.
31	Mitchell, Devon	S	6-1	194	26	Iowa
52	Mott, Steve	C	6-3	270	27	Alabama
3	Murray, Eddie	K	5-10	175	32	Tulane
86	Nichols, Mark	WR	6-2	208	29	San Jose State
49	Praigo, Tony	FB	5-10	230	26	Virginia Tech
51	Robinson, Shelton	LB	6-2	236	28	North Carolina
60	Rogers, Reggie	DE	6-6	272	24	Washington
84	Rubick, Rob	TE	6-3	234	28	Grand Valley St.
97	Saleaumua, Dan	NT	6-4	285	23	Arizona State
73	Salem, Harvey	T-G	6-6	285	27	California
64	Sanders, Eric	T-G	6-7	280	29	Nevada-Reno
28	Shelfield, Chris	CB	6-1	200	25	Albany State
41	Smith, Ricky	WR-CB	6-0	188	28	Alabama St.
27	Watkins, Bobby	CB	5-10	184	28	S.W. Texas State
76	Williams, Eric	NT	6-4	280	28	Washington St.
59	Williams, Jimmy	LB	6-3	230	28	Nebraska
38	Williams, Scott	FB	6-2	234	26	Georgia
21	Woolfolk, Butch	RB	6-1	212	28	Michigan

OTHER

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Blades, Bennie	S	6-1	213	Miami
2	Spielman, Chris	LB	6-0	234	Ohio State
3	Carter, Pat	TE	6-4	260	Florida State
2	Roundtree, Ray	WR	6-0	180	Penn State
4	White, William	DB	5-10	189	Ohio State
5	Andolsek, Eric	G	6-2	281	LSU
6	Painter, Carl	RB	5-9	180	Hampton
7	James, Jeff	WR	5-10	180	Stanford
8	Hadd, Gary	DE	6-3	260	Minnesota
9	Cornington, Kip	DB	5-11	176	Texas A&M
9	Irvin, Todd	DT	6-6	288	Mississippi
10	Craig, Paco	WR	5-0	175	UCLA
11	McCorm, Danny	DB	6-2	190	Cincinnati

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Lindy Infante once thought he would like to be an architect—"the next Frank Lloyd Wright." The Packers offer their new coach a challenging project. Starting from scratch is not acceptable. Rebuilding isn't necessary either. Tom Braatz, director of football operations, made it clear to Infante that expectations in Packerland are for immediate improvements, sort of like a prefabricated addition to the foundation established by former coach Forrest Gregg. No muss, no fuss, just results.

"I think we've got a pretty good base to work from," Infante said.

Infante comes to Green Bay as a second choice after Michigan State coach George Peres turned down the job. As soon as Infante accepted, team officials pointed out that another former Packer coach also was a second choice. That was in 1959. After Iowa's Forrest Evashevski turned down the job, the Packers turned to Vince Lombardi. So Infante had barely nodded yes to the challenge when the Lombardi legacy cast its long shadow on him. Not only is he a second choice, he is Italian.

Infante seems ideally suited to the Packer task at hand. This was a team that couldn't score points in 1987, finishing 25th in the league. Infante is an offensive coordinator. He helped Gregg get to the Super Bowl when he worked with Cincinnati. He helped Cleveland get to the last two AFC championship games. In both cases, he had a quarterback. Credited with developing Bernie Kosar in Cleveland, Infante insists, "Bernie probably did more for me than I did for him."

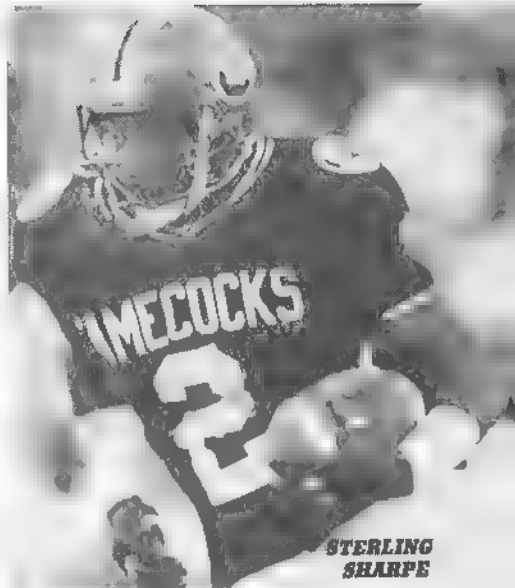
Modesty aside, Infante will have to earn his reputation all over again in Green Bay, where nobody knows for sure who the quarterback

is. That detail, notwithstanding, Infante displays all the optimism of a first-year coach. Adding premier receiver Sterling Sharpe of South Carolina in the draft helped.

"I don't want to set goals for ourselves that are less than what we would really like to do, and that's win the NFL championship," he said. "I think that, hopefully, we're not as far away as some people think we are." But Infante is realistic, too. He has spent too long trying to land his first head-coaching job in the NFL to have his head in the sand. The Bears and the Vikings both made the playoffs a year ago. The Packers, however, beat both the Lions and Vikings in their only non-strike meetings last year and they always play the Bears tough. Only four teams in the NFC—all of them either division champions or playoff teams—gave up fewer points in 1987 than the Packers.

So perhaps a quarterback is all Infante needs to develop. Second-year man Don Majkowski, a surprise as a rookie 10th-rounder last season, appears to have the inside track. He started five games, including the season finale, and showed promise. "He has the ability to scramble and to move around when the pocket breaks down—a good athlete with a pretty strong arm," Infante said. Randy Wright started seven games and completed a higher percentage of passes than Majkowski did. After five years, Wright should be hitting his peak. The surprise of the spring was Robbie Bosco, the Brigham Young product who has been sidelined for two seasons with arm problems. Although he has yet to play, Bosco would be a welcome addition.

Whoever ends up throwing the ball will enjoy watching Sharpe catch it. "He was the top-rated wide receiver in the draft the way we



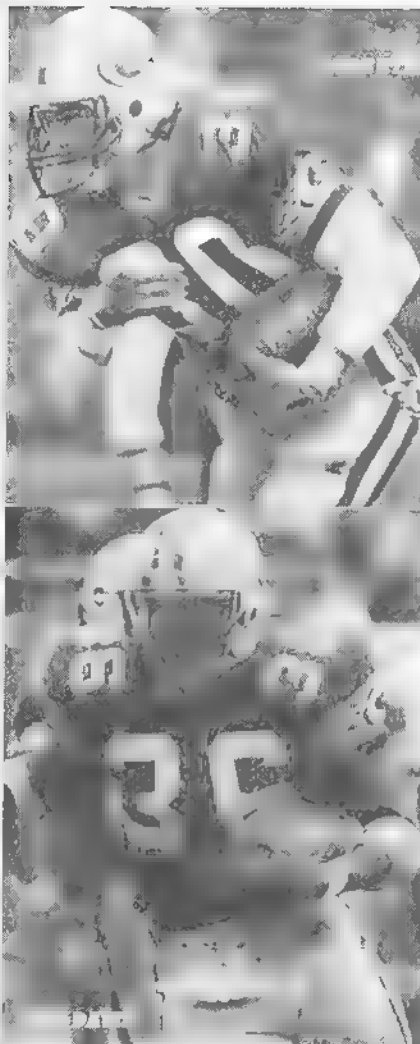
STERLING SHARPE

had them rated," said Braatz. Like Notre Dame's more highly publicized Tim Brown, Sharpe returned kicks and played a multiple role in South Carolina's "Run and Shoot" offense. He has all the qualities of a superior wideout, although he is not quite as fast as Brown. A class act, Sharpe received his undergraduate degree at South Carolina in May of 1987 and stayed in school for graduate work while playing his final season.

The Packers were not in dire need of wide receivers, but Sharpe will upgrade the group considerably. Speedy Phil Epps crashed the Packer's all-time top 10 receiving list last year.



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The other starter Walter Stanley, emerged as the team's leading receiver for the season (38 catches) Frankie Neal is coming off a successful rookie year. He has good size and speed but must watch his weight. Ed West is a good blocking tight end, backed up by Joey Hackett. "I don't know how many times West was asked to be a prime target so he may be able to blossom a little bit under some of the things we're going to do," Infante said.

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
59	Anderson, John	LB	6-3	228	32	Michigan
6	Bosco, Robbie	QB	6-2	198	25	Brigham Young
61	Boyarisky, Jerry	NT	6-3	290	29	Pittsburgh
17	Bracken, Don	P	6-0	211	26	Michigan
32	Brown, Dave	CB	6-1	197	35	Michigan
93	Brown, Robert	DE	6-2	267	28	VPI
79	Browner, Ross	DE	6-3	265	34	Notre Dame
76	Cameker, Alphonso	DE	6-5	271	26	Florida State
58	Cannon, Mark	C	6-3	258	26	Texas-Arlington
30	Carroth, Paul Ott	RB	6-1	220	27	Alabama
69	Cherry, Bill	OL	6-4	277	27	Mid Tenn St
33	Clark, Jessie	FB	6-0	228	28	Arkansas
64	Collier, Steve	DT	6-7	342	25	Bethune-Cookman
20	Cook, Kelly	RB	5-10	225	26	Oklahoma St
60	Crosston, Dave	OT	6-6	280	23	Iowa
36	Davis, Kenneth	RB	5-10	209	26	TCU
56	Dani, Burnell	LB	6-1	236	25	Tulane
99	Dorsey, John	LB	6-2	243	27	Connecticut
71	Drost, Jeff	DT	6-5	286	24	Iowa
27	Elliott, Tony	DB	5-10	195	24	Central Michigan
85	Epps, Philip	WR	5-9	155	29	Texas Christian
84	Fitzgerald, Patlock	WR	6-3	197	25	Boise State
21	Fullwood, Brent	RB	5-11	209	24	Auburn
23	Greene, Tiger	DB	6-0	194	26	Western Carolina
89	Hackett, Joey	TE	6-5	267	29	Elon College
65	Hallstrom, Ron	G	6-6	230	29	Iowa
53	Harris, Gregg	G	6-4	279	22	Wake Forest
97	Harris, Timothy	LB	6-5	235	23	Memphis State
50	Holland, Johnny	LB	6-2	221	23	Texas A&M
38	Jefferson, Norman	DB	5-10	183	24	LSU
39	Johnson, Kenneth	CB	6-0	185	24	Mississippi St
41	King, Don	DB	5-11	200	24	SML
22	Lee, Mark	DB	5-11	189	30	Washington
7	Majkowski, Don	QB	6-2	197	24	Virginia
44	Mandeville, Chris	SS	6-1	213	23	Cal Davis
88	Marshall, Willie	WR	6-1	190	24	Temple
98	Moore, Brent	LB	6-5	242	25	Southern Cal
57	Moran, Rich	OL	6-2	275	26	San Diego St
47	Morris, Jim Bob	DB	6-3	211	27	Kansas State
81	Morris, Lee	WR	5-10	180	24	Oklahoma
37	Murphy, Mark	SS	6-2	201	30	Wes. Liberty
80	Neal, Frankie	WR	6-1	202	22	Fort Hayes St
72	Neville, Tom	OL	6-5	306	26	Fresno State
91	Noble, Brian	LB	6-3	252	25	Arizona State
82	Paskett, Keith	WR	5-11	180	23	Western Kentucky
77	Robinson, Tommy	T	6-4	290	27	Texas A&M
75	Ruettgers, Ken	OL	6-5	280	26	Southern Cal
83	Scott, Patrick	WR	5-10	170	24	Grambling
87	Stanley, Walter	WR	5-9	179	25	Mesa College
54	Stephen, Scott	LB	6-2	232	23	Arizona State
29	Stills, Ken	DB	5-10	186	24	Wisconsin
48	Summers, Don	TE	6-4	235	27	Boise State
92	Thomas, Ben	OL	6-4	275	27	Auburn
45	Thomas, Loyale	RB	6-0	205	24	Fresno State
70	Uecker, Keith	OL	6-5	284	28	Auburn
73	Veingrad, Alan	OL	6-5	277	25	E. Texas St
28	Watts, Elbert	CB	6-1	205	25	Southern Cal
52	Weddington, Mike	LB	6-4	245	27	Oklahoma
51	Westhahn, Clayton	LB	6-1	218	28	Angelo State
86	West, Ed	TE	6-1	243	27	Auburn
35	Willhite, Kevin	RB	5-11	208	25	Oregon
	Winkler, Blaise	DE	6-3	274	26	Syracuse
6	Wright, Randy	DB	6-2	203	27	Wisconsin
8	Zendejas, Max	K	5-11	84	25	Arizona

PACKERS 1987 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Zendejas, 61 points on 13 extra points and 16 field goals 12th
RUSHING—Davis, 413 yards on 109 carries, 3.8 avg. 3 TDs 19th
PASSING—Wright, 132 of 247 attempts for 1,507 yards and 6 TDs 14th
RECEIVING—Stanley, 38 receptions for 672 yards, 17.7 avg., 3 TDs 20th
INTERCEPTIONS—Morris, 3 for 135 yards, 45.0 avg 17th
BROWN, 3 for 16 yards, 5.3 avg 29th
PUNTING—Bracken, 72 punts, 40.9 avg., longest 65 yards 5th
PUNT RETURNS—Stanley 28 for 173 yards, 6.2 avg 12th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Fullwood, 24 for 510 yards, 21.3 avg 9th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 6 NEW YORK GIANTS (N)
 13 At Indianapolis (N)
 19 KANSAS CITY at Milwaukee (N)
 27 NEW YORK JETS at Madison

1988 SCHEDULE

		1987 SCORES
September	4 LOS ANGELES RAMS	17-23
	11 TAMPA BAY	
	18 at Miami	
October	25 CHICAGO	24-26
	2 at Tampa Bay	
	9 NEW ENGLAND at Milwaukee	
	16 at Minnesota	23-16
	23 WASHINGTON at Milwaukee	
	30 at Buffalo	
November	6 at Atlanta	
	13 INDIANAPOLIS	
	20 DETROIT at Milwaukee	(OT) 16-19
	27 at Chicago	10-23
December	4 at Detroit	34-33
	11 MINNESOTA	16-10
	18 at Phoenix	

KEN RUETTIGERS

DRAFTED

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Sharpe, Sterling	WR	5-11	196	South Carolina
2	Patterson, Shawn	DT	6-5	263	Arizona State
3	Woodside, Keith	RB	5-11	204	Texas A&M
4	Pulbir, Rollin	DT	6-4	283	Oregon
5	Ceco, Chuck	DB	6-0	184	Arizona
6	Reed, Darrell	LB	6-1	220	Oklahoma
7	Hill, Nate	DE	6-3	266	Auburn
8	Richard, Gary	DB	5-11	180	Pittsburgh
9	Collins, Patrick	RB	5-10	185	Oklahoma
10	Wilkinson, Neal	TE	6-4	232	James Madison
11	Keyes, Bud	QB	6-2	210	Wisconsin
12	Bolton, Scott	WR	6-0	185	Auburn

Infante is looking for two running backs to carry the load. The drafting of Keith Woodside from Texas A&M in the third round should provide the competition necessary for Infante to get his wish. Woodside is an excellent receiver, a skill that last year's No. 1 draft choice, Brent Fulwood, was unable to demonstrate. Fulwood spent more time in the training room than coaches bargained for as a rookie. He didn't block well, started only once, and didn't seem to have the interest in his future that one might expect from the fourth player chosen in the draft. Kenneth Davis emerged as the leading rusher for the second year with 413 yards. Jessie Clark and Paul Ott Carruth shared full-back responsibilities as Gregg tried in vain to find a consistent combination.

The offensive line is solid enough that Braatz completely ignored it in the draft. Last year's starting five returns intact—tackles Ken Ruettgens and Keith Uecker, guards Rich Moran and Ron Hallstrom, and center Mark Cannon—along with guard Tom Neville, tackle Alan Veingrad, center Bill Cherry, and huge replacement tackle Steve Collier.

"The more experience a guy has on the interior line, generally the better he gets to a point, and I think we've got guys that are still maturing," Infante said. Ruettgens, who plays the vital left side in a division of good pass rushers, was voted MVP of the offense last year. "A good choice," said Infante. "I'm encouraged by the way our offensive guards can move, pull, run. A good place to build an offense is from your line."

It doesn't take an architect to know a good place to build defense starts with linemen, too. The Packers made defensive end Shawn Patterson of Arizona State their second-round pick because this is the team's weakest area.

"Generally, I like the way the defense played last year," Infante said. "I didn't see anybody out there standing around waiting for somebody else to do something. Nobody believes more strongly than I do in having a great defense. I don't believe you win championships by just having offensive talent."

On the line, ends Alphonso Carreker and Robert Brown and nose tackle Jerry Boyarsky were the starters. Patterson, described as a hard worker who has not reached his peak, will push for a spot. Fourth-round nose tackle Rollin Putzier of Oregon also will compete for playing time. Sixth-round end Nate Hill of Auburn, Brent Moore, Ben Thomas, and Ross Browner will vie for backup roles.

"Like every other team, we need great pass rushers," Infante said. Carreker is a good, solid player [who] just needs to start making a bigger impact as far as the pass rush is concerned. Brown played very good, very solid football last year and Boyarsky really is a load in the middle."

Linebacker Tim Harris remains the team's top pass rusher. He had seven sacks last year as the fourth rusher in pass situations. Harris is part of a productive linebacking group that is the strength of the defense. Inside backer Brian Noble led the defense in tackles for the second year. Left backer John Anderson, heading into his 11th season, was close behind. Johnny Holland was voted the team's rookie of the year after starting all season. Oklahoma's Darrel Reed, a fifth-round draft choice, will join Clayton Weishuhn, Scott Stephen, and Mike Weddington as backups.

"Harris gives you a guy that has the ability to play up and down. He's a big linebacker or a smallish down lineman. What we need out of Harris this year is to get a few more big plays,

a few more pressures on the quarterback."

Right cornerback Dave Brown is a 14-year pro and the NFL's leading active interceptor. Mark Lee is solid on the other corner. Strong safety Mark Murphy and free safety Ken St. Louis need to get more interceptions. Tiger Greene, Norman Jefferson, Ken Johnson, Chris Mandeville, and Jim Bob Morris will get company from rookies Chuck Cecil and Gary Richard.

Special teams covered kicks better than they returned them. Punter Don Bracken ranked fifth in the NFC and place-kicker Max Zendejas hit 16 field goals in 19 attempts.



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- 1 Part Triple Sec
- 4 Parts Sprite
- Add ice and stir.
- Garnish with lemon slices and cherries.

JACK DANIEL'S
LYNCHBURG
LEMONADE



DEXTER MANLEY

Michael W. Matthews

football excellence. With two seasons remaining, there is still time to catch the Redskins and capture the distinction.

Chicago Bears coach Mike Ditka had the idea first. "I would like the Bears to be the team of the 1980s, like the Steelers were of the 1970s, and the Packers of the 1960s."

The idea hadn't occurred to Bill Walsh, coach of the San Francisco 49ers. Before Super Bowl XXII, Walsh's 49ers and Al Davis's Raiders were the only teams to win two titles in the decade. "If you name a team of the '80s, it's a little absurd. We have 1988 and '89 yet," Walsh said.

Washington coach Joe Gibbs agrees. The last thing the cautious Gibbs wants is for his team to be revered as the last word in modern football prowess. "We had to play great football to win games," he said. "Several teams that won this right in front of us were more dominating." Gibbs would prefer if his owner would refer to his Redskins as merely the "Little 'Ol Team of the Decade."

Davis thinks in bigger terms than mere decades, as evidenced by his induction speech of guard Gene Upshaw into the Hall of Fame in 1987. "For three memorable decades, the Oakland and now Los Angeles Raiders had the greatest players, the greatest coaches, the greatest plays and performed in the greatest games ever played in the annals of pro football, as well as all pro sports," Davis said, dismissing the Redskins, Steelers, Packers, Boston Celtics, Montreal Canadiens, New York Yankees, and Harlem Globetrotters in one sentence.

There are seven teams that have won more than 70 regular-season games in the '80s. Four of them—the Redskins, 49ers, Raiders, and Bears—have accounted for all but one of the Super Bowl victories in the decade. The exception is the Giants, who have a 59-57-1 record in the '80s.

Redskins Besides becoming the first three-time Super Bowl participant of the '80s, the Redskins have the best overall playoff record of the decade (11-3). Though he would disagree, the consistent and key ingredient is Gibbs, who seems more important than quarterbacks Joe Theismann, Jay Schroeder, or Doug Williams or running backs John Riggins, George Rogers, or Tim Smith. With wealthy owner Cooke and astute general manager Bobby Beathard also dedicated to winning, the Redskins' success may not appear spectacular yet, but it is impressively consistent.

49ers Besides winning Super Bowls XVI and XIX, Walsh also has compiled six 10-victory seasons in the '80s, more than any other contender. The 15-1 team of 1984 compared with the 1985 Bears and 1986 Giants for downright dominance, and the 1987 team clearly won every statistical crown that didn't come with Roman numerals.

Raiders Memories fade. They won Super Bowls XV and XVIII, but haven't won a playoff game since. If they convince Bo Jackson that avoiding hits on a football field is more productive than avoiding hits on a baseball field, they could make a stretch run. But even Jackson will need a quarterback, though Davis doesn't appear to agree. Maybe he's too busy working on the 1990s already. *continued*

TEAMS OF THE DECADE

by **DON PIERSON** CHICAGO TRIBUNE

There is a problem developing in the National Football League. There is not yet a Team of the 1980s. A decade is about to end without an NFL stamp of approval. The Reagan Dynasty concludes without anyone winning for the Gipper.

When the Washington Redskins won Super Bowl XXII, it helped matters. It gives them a slight lead, anyway. Already they have been anointed king by no less an authority than Jack Kent Cooke, their owner.

"We have the winningest record in the '80s. To hell with the Cowboys and the Bears and

anybody else. We are the premier team in the NFL," Cooke said.

Every decade needs a team, just as it needs a theme. Whether it's the Roaring '20s or the Depression, War or Rock n' Roll, it makes life worth reliving. It provides legitimacy for the history books, convenient milestones for our nostalgia trips, and, most important, footage for NFL Films.

Until the Redskins emerged with their second Super Bowl victory and third Super Bowl trip of the 1980s, the decade was rapidly dwindling without any clear definition of pro

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TEAMS OF THE DECADE

Bears In 1985-86-87 they won more games than any team ever over a three-year period. But they have lost in the playoffs two years in a row to the Redskins, no way to change Cooke's mind. The health of quarterback McMahon will help determine Ditka's success.

Broncos In this scramble, close is good enough to qualify. Despite consecutive Super Bowl losses, they still have the best player in football in quarterback John Elway. Maybe they will be the One-Man Team of the Decade.

Dolphins Coach Don Shula's team is always a contender, but now they rank with the Broncos as two-time Super Bowl losers. Like Elway, quarterback Dan Marino needs help.



Cowboys This fading team is the only 70-plus game winner that has failed to reach a Super Bowl in the '80s. They are 5-5 in postseason play. Coach Tom Landry would have to go out in an unprecedented blaze of victories for his team to be considered.

Giants They aren't among the top seven regular-season winners of the '80s, but their playoff record of 6-3 for the decade ranks behind only the Redskins and Raiders. As Walsh would say, there's still 1988 and 1989.

The close competition among the top teams indicates how the NFL is approaching its goal of parity. If anybody and everybody has a chance to win, fans everywhere are happy. During the 1970s only nine different teams participated in Super Bowls. Already in the 1980s, 10 teams have participated, including six that weren't there in the '70s.

There are more theories about the lack of dominating teams than there are contenders. It is a phenomenon not limited to football. In the last 10 years in baseball, no National League team has won a division title two years in a row—20 races without a repeater. In the same span, only two American League teams have won successive division titles. There has been a different winner in each of the last 10 World Series. In the NBA, no team has repeated since 1969.

In football, the excuses for failing to repeat are money, time, revenge, and the draft.

MONEY Winning itself used to be the primary reward and motivation. The winners' pot of playoff cash was the primary financial incentive. It wasn't much, but it was worth the effort. This was before stage, screen, and autobiographies. Now, players such as Bears' quarter-

back Jim McMahon not only don't have to win in order to land gigantic endorsement contracts, they don't even have to play. McMahon appeared in more Taco Bell commercials than games last season. Although McMahon is a ferocious competitor, the gold mine he tapped is indicative of the spoils that can spoil even one-time winners. There were 11 books written by New York Giants. Before they were read, the Giants were dead.

TIME These were among the first words out of Joe Gibbs's mouth the day after winning Super Bowl XXII: "We've got a late start now. Everybody else already has had rest. We've got to get our players back."

Offseason preparation and development are becoming more and more important in seeking the competitive edge. More teams are paying players small stipends to work out at team training facilities during rigorous off-season programs encouraged and supervised by coaches and trainers. Mini-camp and training camp are supplemented by informal on-field practice. After the draft, rookies and assorted veterans gather for orientation. Getting players back to earth is one of the toughest tasks a coach faces after propelling them into orbit.

REVENGE When so much money, fame, and glory is attached to success, rival teams become jealous. Instead of respecting and admiring winners, losers plot.

"There won't be a coach who plays us who will need to get his team ready," Gibbs said.

When the Bears won in 1985, they gloated. Their popular music video "Super Bowl Shuffle" sounded like fingernails on a blackboard to 27 other teams. When the Giants won in 1986, the Bears greeted them in the opener of 1987 with a resounding victory. This year, the Giants host the Redskins in the season's Monday night opener.

History shows that Super Bowl losers have better records the following seasons than Super Bowl winners. The four Super Bowl winners prior to the Redskins—the Giants, Bears, 49ers, and Raiders—have yet to win a single playoff game since their Super Bowl titles.

Three of the last four Super Bowl champions—the Redskins, Bears, and 49ers—won after losing the conference championship game the previous season. That trend points to the Minnesota Vikings for 1988, or perhaps to the Cleveland Browns, who have lost two AFC title games in a row.

THE DRAFT The system is designed to prevent dynasties. Most NFL teams are catching on. The teams with the best records get the short end of the draft order. With the draft at the end of April instead of February, where it was in the '70s, teams have more time to evaluate players. To win consistently, the good teams have to defy the system. The Redskins and Bears are two that have done it well.

The Redskins use the draft to trade for players. This year, they used the free-agent system to pry linebacker Wilber Marshall away from the Bears and didn't hesitate to give up the required compensation of two No. 1 draft choices. The Bears have drafted well despite their choices in the bottom half of round one. They got Otis Wilson 19th, Willie Gault 18th, William Perry 22d, Neal Anderson 27th, and Jim Harbaugh 26th.

Before the Super Bowl, there were other decades. believe it or not.

The Cleveland Browns were the team of the 1950s. They won three NFL titles. The Detroit Lions also won three during the '50s, beating Cleveland all three times. But the Browns were in the big game seven times in 10 years, the Lions made it only four times, becoming Team 1A of the '50s. The Baltimore Colts won in 1958-59, and their televised overtime victory over the Giants in 1958 ushered in a new awareness of the sport. So they get a vote as the first dynasty of the tube.

The Bears were the team of the 1940s, with four titles and a fifth appearance in the championship game. Their 73-0 conquest of the Redskins in 1940 was enough to establish a reputation that spanned the decade.

The Giants could lay claim to the 1930s, because they won two titles and played in five of the seven title games after the league officially started postseason play in 1933. The Packers also could contest the 1930s, as well as the '60s. Like the Giants, the Pack in the '30s won two titles after 1933. They also had the league's best record in 1930 and 1931 and compiled a slightly better regular-season record than the Giants throughout the depression decade.

The 1920s belonged to survivors. In pro football, it was not the Roaring '20s; it was the Scrambling '20s. The Canton Bulldogs finished on top twice but lasted only six years. The Chicago Cardinals and the Dayton Triangles are the only two teams to keep the same name and city throughout the decade. The Bears started in Decatur and moved to Chicago as the Staleys.

In the 1970s, the power of the Super Bowl was demonstrated not only in selecting winners but in defining losers. The great Minnesota Viking teams went to three Super Bowls in the '70s and to one in 1969, but because they lost all four, they have less of a reputation than the Raiders or Colts, who each went to only one in the '70s, but won. In the '70s, the Cowboys played in five Super Bowls, but they lost three, leaving the Steelers as undisputed champions with a four-for-four record.

Will the Redskins emerge as the Team of the '80s? With two Super Bowls left and no team with more than two victories yet, anybody can still lay claim to the decade. Jim Kelly and the Buffalo Bills, for example. Eric Dickerson and the Indianapolis Colts. Bernie Kosar and the Cleveland Browns. Buddy Ryan and the Philadelphia Eagles. Even the New Orleans Saints.

There is still time for things to get more absurd than Walsh thinks. But at this point, Jack Kent Cooke's opinion is worth a billion dollars. The Redskins are in the lead.

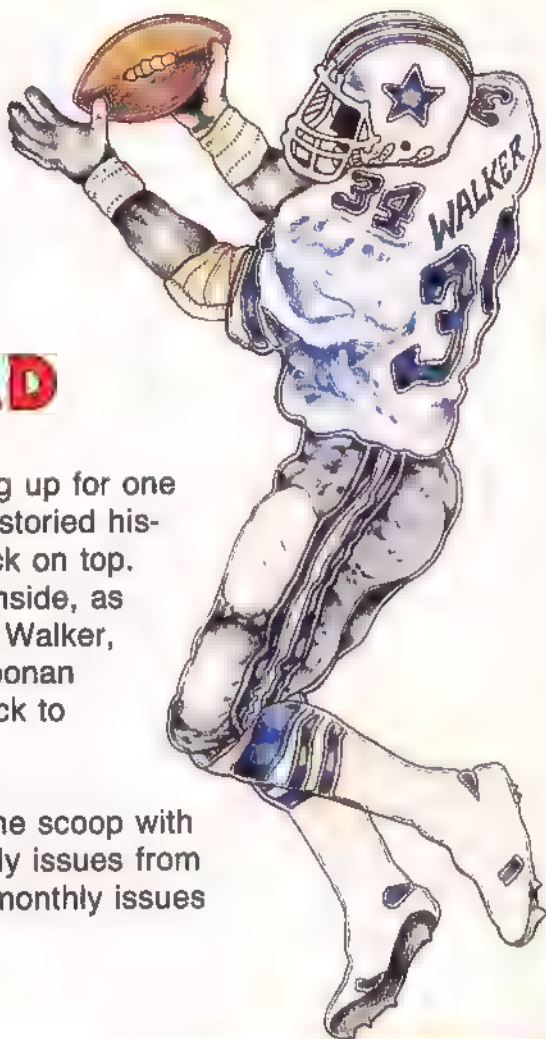
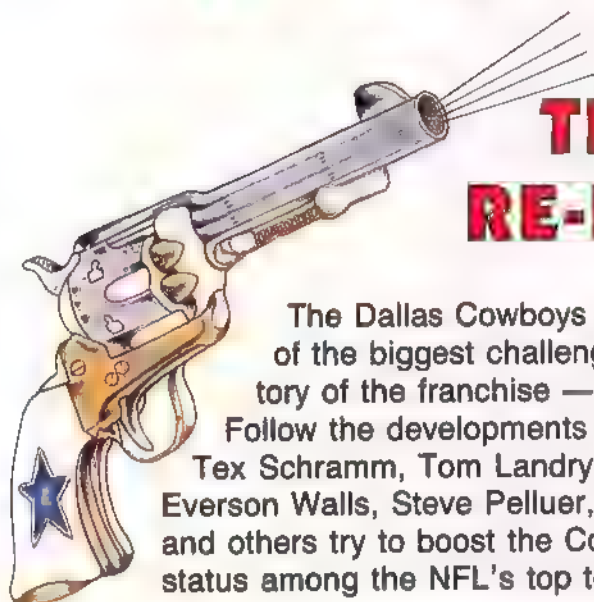
TEAMS OF THE 1980s

	super bowl	postseason	regular season*
Redskins	2-1	11-3	77-40-0
Raiders	2-0	8-3	73-44-0
49ers	2-0	7-4	77-39-1
Giants	1-0	6-3	59-57-1
Bears	1-0	4-3	72-45-0
Broncos	0-2	4-4	72-44-1
Cowboys	0-0	5-5	73-44-0
Dolphins	0-2	6-5	79-37-1

*Excluding strike games

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MOONSTRUCK IN HOUSTON

by **JIM CARLEY** HOUSTON POST

Warren Moon's leadership helped put the Oilers in the playoffs for the first time since 1980

● To the casual observer, the blossoming of Harold Warren Moon as a leader extraordinary came, it seemed, during the October strike. Thrust into the role of player representative, Moon had taken charge. He had been a cool head when the first wave of scab players bused into the Houston Oilers' camp and many of the players had pelted the vehicle with eggs and small rocks. He kept the players largely unified when other teams were

falling apart, and many who had questioned his quiet ways in the past saw a different forceful leader. A new Moon, so to speak. That was the angle the media took.

"I don't feel it happened then at all," Moon said. "I think people just started noticing it a little more then. I went into training camp with a goal to be more assertive. I felt that I had to take more responsibility. In the past, when we needed a big drive, we didn't seem to get it.

thought that if I took more of the role as a leader, it would help get us over that hump."

Naturally it was still all talk until Moon, the \$1.1 million per year quarterback Houston brought in four years ago, showed it on the field. He did the very first game, leading the Oilers from behind with 17 points in the fourth quarter, including a dramatic 59-yard touchdown pass to Ernest Givins, to upset the Los Angeles Rams, 20-16. Two weeks later, the regular players struck and Moon assumed a leadership role that was more obvious to the public. He was the daily spokesman for the striking Oilers.

When they returned from the strike, Moon took up where he had left off on the field. He rallied the Oilers on a thrilling 80-yard drive against Atlanta, finishing it off with a 14-yard touchdown strike to Curtis Duncan.

"I think those drives really helped me from a performance standpoint," Moon said. "Being able to make some big plays on those drives helped my confidence as a leader and I think he put me in the eyes of the other players. But I knew it had to come last year from the beginning. We're a young team, and [as] one of the older players, I knew I would have to take on more responsibility."

The always reserved Moon of the past was gone. In practices and games, players began to see that Moon expected more of them.

"In the past, I wasn't as assertive as I should have been," he said. "I didn't get after players when they needed someone to point things out. And I didn't call audibles sometimes because I wasn't sure of myself enough."

Part of the problem for Moon before, however, was wondering exactly what offense was going to be run. In his first four seasons, he had a different offensive coordinator every year. But last season he struck up a special relationship with new quarterback coach June Jones, the former Atlanta Falcon, in his first year as a National Football League assistant. Jones had been an assistant in the USFL under offensive coordinator Darrell "Mouse" Davis, the developer of the Run-and-Shoot offense that Jim Kelly made famous with the Houston Gamblers. The offense has long been a focal point of skepticism by NFL old-timers, who felt it wouldn't work in their league. Having Jones add much of the Run-and-Shoot, now called the Red Gun offense, was the natural next step. And Moon couldn't have been happier. He had gone to coach Jerry Glanville midway through the 1986 season and complained that the offense had been too conservative. They opened it up and began to succeed, winning four of their last six games.

"In the past we had been more strapped."

Moon said. "The coaches didn't have the confidence in us to go for the big plays. That's where June Jones came in. Jerry had a lot of confidence in June, and we started doing things we hadn't done before. It helped everybody. We have a lot of speed and the ground-it-out team we were before was wrong for us."

The new flash attack was perfectly suited to Moon and his band of lightning receivers. They struck for big plays with stunning regularity as Moon hit passes of 40 yards or longer in nine of the 14 games he started. His 2,806 yards and 21 touchdown passes both ranked seventh in the league last year. The tandem of Givins and Drew Hill led all wide receivers in

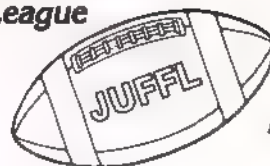
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All Sport/Mike Powell



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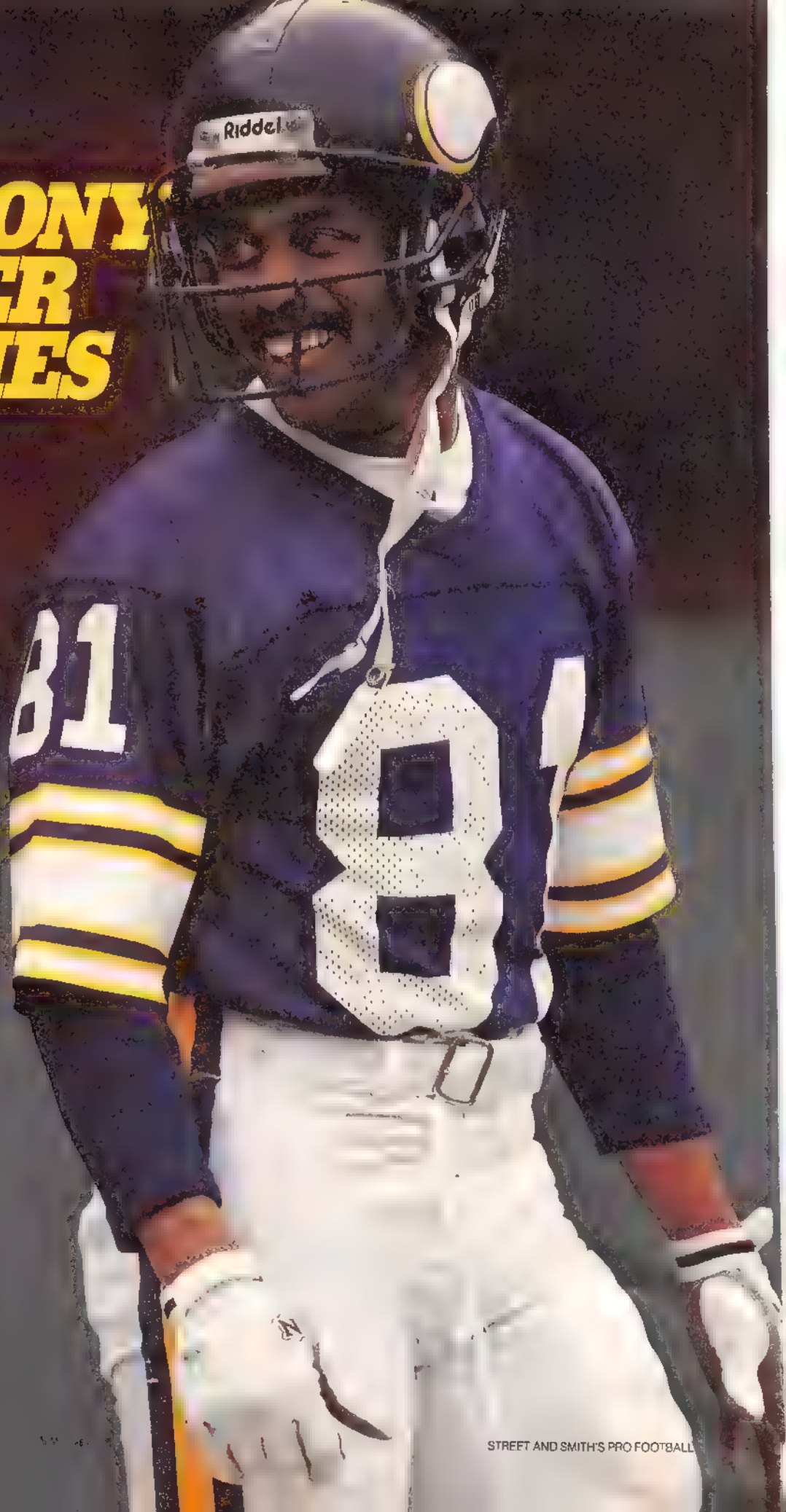
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ANTHONY CARTER CATCHES UP



When it ended, Anthony Carter had the best view in the house. With less than a minute to play, fourth down, 6-yard line and a sellout crowd at Washington's RFK Stadium introducing decibels never before heard in that ballpark, the Minnesota Vikings trailed the Washington Redskins, 17-10, in the NFC championship game last January. Carter, about two yards deep in the end zone, watched in horror as teammate Darin Nelson cut along the goal line, got his hands on... and dropped quarterback Wade Wilson's last-gasp pass. That was it. Nelson was immediately hit by Washington cornerback Darrell Green and linebacker Monte Coleman, and Carter was left standing there, another pass not thrown his way.

"Well, they just didn't call my play none in the second half and in the third quarter, not any time," said Carter, a hero in the Vikings' two previous playoff games against New Orleans and San Francisco. He caught a respectable seven passes for 85 yards against the Redskins. "I don't know what the deal was. But they coach and I play."

The deal was that Nelson, not Carter, was the receiver of choice on the Smoke 83 option play. In fact, some observers felt that Carter actually ran the wrong route on the play and inadvertently brought Green, his man, close enough to fall off on Nelson and perhaps distract him. No matter. It was a fitting conclusion to a tumultuous and, in the end, highly successful season, for both Carter and the Vikings. Oh, it was a curious season, for team as well as player, the kind of season on which roller coaster tracks could be laid.

They had high times, low times, and, in the playoffs (the Vikings' first since 1982), some brilliant times as Minnesota surprised the New Orleans Saints, 44-10, in their NFC wild card game, then stunned the Super Bowl-favored San Francisco 49ers, 36-24, in the next round. Carter starred in both, as receiver, runner, and punt returner, with 500 yards in total offense and, against the 49ers, a record 227 receiving yards on 10 catches. Alas, like that final play in Washington and Carter's agonizing view of it, the Vikings ended up a little short. They finished six yards shy of a touchdown that would have pushed the title game into overtime, perhaps a play or two from their fifth Super Bowl appearance (and chance to finally win one).

"I think it was fun," Minnesota coach Jerry Burns said when it was all over, "but it was so doggone hectic at times. We had a little streak going there, and everything was great, then we went in the [can] and I went with it. Then we came back and did great, then went in the [can] again. It was an interesting year."

It was interesting for Carter, too, from the season opener against Detroit, in which he coughed up the first two balls thrown to him for interceptions, to the superb performances of the postseason. In between was the NFL players' strike, during which the Vikings fielded perhaps the worst of all 28 replacement teams, and the added frustration of losing important games precisely when the team needed to peak, a slump that plunged many of the

Vikings into a December depression. At one point, Carter had had enough. His unhappiness about not contributing and losing—losing was the key issue, he would later say—bubbled over into the newspapers. Minnesota had blown another fourth-quarter lead that week, against the Green Bay Packers.

"Sometimes you just wonder, why did they trade for me?" grumped Carter, a former USFL player whose rights were obtained from the Miami Dolphins before the 1985 season. In 40 games with the Vikings, spanning three years, Carter has 119 catches. "Around here you get used to it—two or three passes a game. Look, every four times I catch the ball I score. It's obvious someone doesn't care."

After a record-setting collegiate career and a stint in the USFL, Anthony Carter has caught on with the Minnesota Vikings

The Vikings' response was predictable. Offensive coordinator Bob Schnelker said his offense would never force a ball into the kind of double coverage Carter often drew. Mike Lynn, the Vikings' general manager, said, "The coaches recognize his ability, and would use their grandmother if they thought they could gain a yard." And Burns? "I take that all with a grain of salt," he said, likening Carter to all those receivers who "never feel they're getting the ball thrown to them enough."

Still, the outburst was uncharacteristic for Carter, 28, a slight (5-11, 170), seemingly shy man with a receding hairline and a tendency to pull back, too, from strangers overly eager to be his friend.

"Sometimes I wonder if he's for real," said Ortancis Carter, his wife and partner in a travel agency they share in Riviera Beach, Fla. "He's such a team player. And it bothers me sometimes. Most people when they achieve, they want to assert themselves. He doesn't feel like that. If he never catches the ball, as long as he contributes something to the game or if the team wins, that's all that counts."

That's what counted to Carter in the Vikings' first two playoff games, when he contributed in just about every way imaginable. Against New Orleans he set playoff records for longest punt return (84 yards) and punt-return yards (143), all because he planted a seed in Burns' mind by handing the coach a poster that included Carter's college stats. Before the Saints' game, Carter had returned just three punts all season. Then, against San Francisco, Carter caught at least one pass in every scoring drive and even ran 30 yards on a reverse play to set up another touchdown.

"When they threw the ball close to him, sometimes I'd say, 'Oh, please, don't let him catch it,'" said Bubba Paris, San Francisco's huge offensive tackle who played with Carter at the University of Michigan. "But I knew there was no need to hope for that. I knew if he was near it, he'd get it."

Said Burns, "A.C.'s a big-play guy. If the good Lord put anybody on the earth to play football, it was Anthony Carter. He just didn't give him the body."

Yet, when the national media turned its spotlight on him in January, it was as if the rays were striking him for the first time. No one knew much about Anthony Carter, a tough guy to get to know. Born in Riviera Beach, Carter was the sixth of eight children, the youngest of five sons. Anita Carter, a single mother, worked for 21 years as a maid at a hotel, bought a home, and kept her children together. Anthony, meanwhile, kept to himself. At Michigan, where he became a favorite of Bo Schembechler's and broke records for receptions (161), yardage (3,076), and touchdowns (37), he was known as "Hermit." He left after four years as much of a stranger to the Wolverine fans as the day he arrived.

Said David Howard, his Viking roommate on the road, "He's sneaky on the field and sneaky off it. If you didn't know him, you wouldn't know he's there. But he's the kind of guy who would take the shirt off his back for you."

Carter is an inveterate worrier who takes his responsibilities seriously (he has helped raise Ortancis's two teen-age daughters) and wastes little time on a locker room lifestyle. Usually, he's the first Viking off the field after practice, the first showered, the first gone.

"Guys [have got] on me pretty tough," he said. "But I've been with those guys, practiced with them, and I'm going to see them later on in the meetings."

Triplets

If Carter is a mystery man, he was the perfect playoff hero for the Vikings, a mystery team for most of the season. Then again, maybe *team* should be plural, because Minnesota played like three different teams last year. Whitey Herzog figured he saw enough in October of the Twins; well, football fans in Minneapolis and St. Paul saw plenty of the triplets that the Vikings acted like in 1987. Call them the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly Vikings.

There were the Good Vikings, who won seven of the first eight games played with union players and then returned for the playoff games at New Orleans and San Francisco. The Good Vikings' only loss through November was at Seattle, 28-17, and they won one of the most entertaining games of the year when they beat Dallas in overtime, 44-38, in a nationally televised contest on Thanksgiving Day. (By the way, Carter caught eight passes for 184 yards and the two touchdowns that day in the best regular-season performance of his career.)

The Good Vikings re-emerged in January, beating the teams with the NFL's best records (Saints, 49ers) by a combined score of 80-34. Their 44-10 victory over New Orleans was the largest margin ever in a wild-card game, and they surely showed the Saints "Who dat?" by outgaining them, 417 yards to 149. The Vikings scored on Carter's punt return, on a half-back option pass from Allen Rice to Carter, and on a Hail Mary fling with no time left, all in the first half.

continued

ANTHONY CARTER CATCHES UP

Against San Francisco, the Vikings looked almost as good. The favored 49ers had outscored their three previous opponents, 124-7, but they wound up benching quarterback Joe Montana in the third quarter and finding super receiver Jerry Rice, who had set an NFL record with 22 touchdown catches, just three times for 28 yards.

"The game was taken away early and we never got in sync," said 49ers coach Bill Walsh. "We give them full credit."

For a while the Good Vikings even had notions of becoming the fourth NFL team to win the Super Bowl after its city's baseball team captured the World Series—like the Orioles-Colts in 1970, Pirates-Steelers in 1979, and Mets-Giants in 1986. Except for

the Bad Vikings. This version of Minnesota's team showed itself during some key moments of the NFC title game—Wilson was sacked eight times, various receivers dropped eight passes—but mostly it showed during December. That's when the Bad Vikings really sabotaged things. While all previous 21 Super Bowl champions had posted records of 3-1 or better in their final four games, the Vikings limped in at 1-3. They started their skid against Chicago at the Metrodome, when they failed four times to score inside the 2-yard line, then were haunted by the failure when they lost their lead, and the game, in the final 40 seconds. They lost probably the most painful of those games in the final 109 against Green Bay, 18-10, and completed the slump in the regular season finale by blowing a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter against Washington and losing in overtime 27-24.

In other words, when they needed to win most—winning two of those final four would have clinched a playoff spot—the Vikings lost. With their fate in their hands, like Darin Nelson, they dropped it. They made the playoffs only when Dallas beat St. Louis on the final day. Burns and his staff hated to hear that their team had "backed into the playoffs."

The Ugly Vikings

The only thing Burns liked less was the Ugly Vikings, the unit made up almost entirely of house painters, roofers, engineers, and auto mechanics that stuck the team with an 0-3 burden it almost did not shake. Four teams were winless during the strike (the Vikings, Giants, Eagles, and Chiefs) and only Minnesota reached the playoffs. Their 8-4 non-strike record led them for fifth-best in the league.

Now, the nuts and bolts of the strike were relatively painless for the local sports fans—the baseball Twins clinched their division one day after the first NFL games were canceled, and won the World Series one day before the regular games resumed. But the results of the strike hurt badly thanks to Lynn. Believing that the strike would be short and hoping not to offend his union players, Lynn waited, too long, to assemble a replacement team. By the time he sifted through the dregs of a ready dubious talent, Lynn wound up with the Ugly Vikings. An example, the quarterback was

Tony Adams, a balding, 27-year-old manufacturing executive who hadn't played since a stint in 1981 with the Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts. He arrived at camp three days before the first game, mostly to prove to his 9- and 11-year-old daughters that he had, indeed, played pro football.

The "real" Vikings, 2-0 at the time, were caught in the middle. "It's a Catch-22," said punter Greg Coleman. "You're ticked at them for crossing the picket line, but you hope they win for the record." The regulars were even more annoyed when the replacements, after blowing the games, each got \$9,000 as their share of the team's playoff earnings.

Want to know the most fascinating thing about the Vikings in 1987? For all of it, good, bad, and ugly, the team ironically finished about where it belonged. Heck, the Vikings' goal entering the season was simply to make the playoffs. They did that, and more.

"We never really consistently were a dominating team like I think we could have been against some of the weaker teams," Burns said. "Whether it was the quarterback situation, the [calf] injury to [defensive tackle Keith] Millard, the interruption of the strike... I don't know. I thought that we would be a recognized team, easily in the top six to eight teams. I don't think we quite arrived at that."

Tumult on and off the Field

If the Vikings didn't arrive, they did improve all things considered. And we do mean all. They overcame not just a rotten replacement—Burns called them his "displacement"—team, but other turmoils on and off the field. They survived a season-long quarterback controversy, alcohol-dependency problems, drunk-driving charges, a holdout by safety Joey Browner, and a battle for the attention and affections of the public in suddenly baseball-mad Minnesota.

The quarterback situation just wouldn't go away. In 1986, Tommy Kramer passed for 3,000 yards, threw 24 touchdowns, started in the Pro Bowl, and helped the Vikings score an NFC-high 398 points. In 1987 Kramer was a virtual washout, starting five games but finishing none and not playing at all until the ninth week. He suffered a pinched nerve in his neck against New England in the team's third exhibition game and never fully recovered. Wilson posted a 5-2 record as a starter, played well in others, held the job through the playoffs but still is fighting a "backup" label. Complicating things, Kramer's poor season could be traced to his arrest a week before training camp on DWI charges and his subsequent 28-day rehabilitation at the Hazelden Foundation in Center City, Minn. Kramer, 33, who was later acquitted, worked out for two hours a day while at Hazelden, running and throwing passes to other patients.

Kramer's run-in with the law was not a first, for him or for the Vikings. During the winter of 1982, Kramer underwent treatment in California. And incredibly, by the time receiver Hassan Jones was pulled over in November, six Vikings had been arrested on drunk-driving charges in 14 months (others were Isaac Holt, Tim Newton, Steve Jordan, and Rich Gannon). Another player, receiver Buster Rhymes (since waived), twice underwent treatment for chemical dependency. In December, Millard was arrested after an altercation in a bar.

"Any time you put youth, money, fame, and free time together you're going to have problems," said Lynn, who said the Vikings would start a drug and alcohol education program for its younger players. "We're beginning to think it's more than just a coincidence, and this is not acceptable to us."

All the outside problems made the Vikings relish their time on the field, a turnaround from the spit-polished but opponent-clobbered squad coached by Les Steckel just three years earlier. The current club was built from the ashes of that 3-13 team, bolstered by the addition of key USFL castoffs (Carter, Millard, Howard, and offensive linemen Gary Zimmerman and Dave Huffman) as well as some youth. The Vikings in 1987 had seven rookies and 22 players with no more than two years of NFL experience. The team still has weaknesses, most apparent in the defensive backfield, at linebacker, and with both ends of its kicking game. Veteran Coleman slipped badly last season and eventually lost his job to Bucky Schuber. Meanwhile, Chuck Nelson missed 10 of 19 field-goal attempts in a late slump but rallied by kicking nine straight in the playoffs.

Minnesota's strengths remain its quarterbacks, in depth if not reliability, running backs (the Vikings led the NFL in rushing in 12 non-strike games and Nelson's 4.9-yard rushing average ranked second in the NFC) receivers, and defensive line. No back rushed for 100 yards against them. In fact, by season's end, the unit of Millard, rookie Henry Thomas, veteran Doug Martin, and rising star Chris Doerman was being compared, favorably if prematurely, to the team's infamous Purple People Eaters (Alan Page, Carl Eller, Jim Marshall, and Gary Larsen). Doerman, a converted linebacker who thinks of himself as a "Tasmanian devil" at defensive end, had 11 sacks and forced six fumbles in his first full season at the position.

"He's good, damn good," said Atlanta offensive tackle Mike Kenn. "He's got great quickness and super strength. He's definitely the premier pass rusher in the NFL right now."

The Vikings want to build on the gains they made in 1987. Their goal for 1988 is to catch and beat the Bears in the NFC Central Division. They learned the hard way how important home-field advantage is in the playoffs. Sure, they did fine at the Superdome and at Candlestick Park, but the pressures of going on the road might have caught up with them in Washington.

"I think we're right up there with the Bears and Skins athletically," said Millard. "No doubt about it. By next year, we should be hot."

It helps, too, to know that the last four Super Bowl winners have come from the NFC, and that each won the Super Bowl after losing the NFC title game the previous season. But Burns, ever the cautious one, wouldn't bite.

"It's a roll of the dice to get to the Super Bowl. You have to throw three sevens to get there. We threw two and didn't make the last point against the Redskins," he said. "People don't realize how tough it is. Because we lost by one catch or six yards, people think we're one play away from the Super Bowl. We're not. We've got to go through a whole season. It's not like next year we start at the six-yard line to go to the Super Bowl."

If they did, the chances are good they'd look for Anthony Carter this time.

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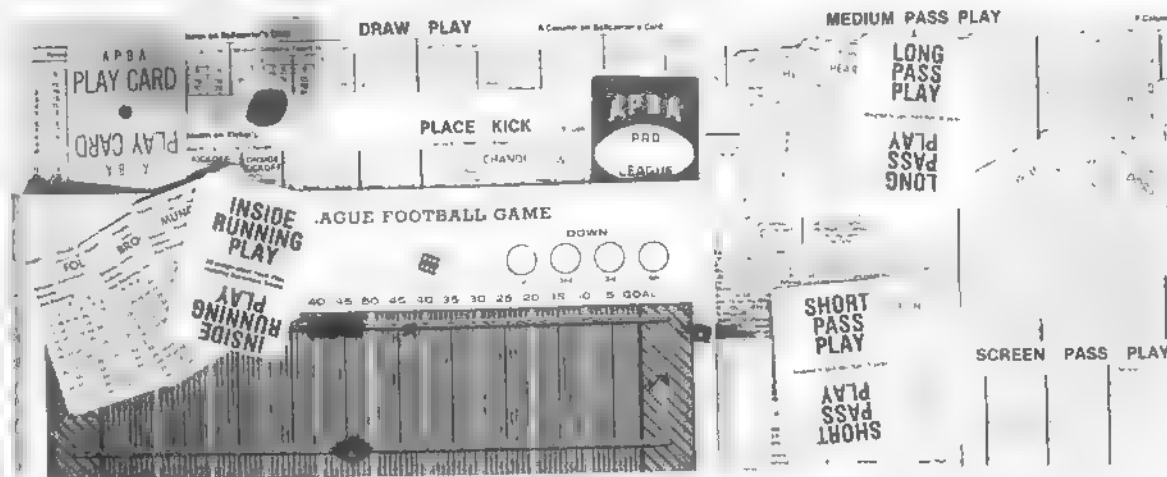
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On defense, you can set your unit primarily to stop either a run or a pass, whichever you anticipate. Defensive "situation" substitutions can be important, too: you may insert a fifth (or even a sixth) back when you expect a pass, and you'll want to juggle your linemen and linebackers, depending on the down and the distance to go, because many of them have better ratings against a run than against a pass, or vice versa. You can "key" on a particular ballcarrier or "double-cover" a dangerous receiver. You can blitz and, in short yardage situations, you can stack up in a "goal line defense."



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- 2 Buffalo Bills
- 3 Indianapolis Colts
- 4 Miami Dolphins
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Wild Card Teams: Los Angeles Raiders, Buffalo Bills
Super Bowl Team: Cleveland Browns

by **LARRY FELSER** BUFFALO NEWS

● It was one of those moments frozen in time. The Cleveland Browns had driven relentlessly toward the Denver goal line, seeking to send the AFC championship game into overtime. The clock ticked off the seconds. Cleveland was inside the Broncos' 10 with little more than a minute remaining in regulation time. The television camera focused on Art Modell, the Browns' owner, whose face was an illustration of 23 years of frustration.

Then something happened. There was a lot of shuffling around, as if everyone on the field suddenly began searching for a lost lens. But it wasn't a lens. It was a lost football. Earnest Byner's fumble. Jeremiah Castile, an obscure defensive back, was the latest to have his name inscribed on Cleveland's list of January tormentors. He recovered the fumble and Denver's victory was secured.

In 1988, Cleveland will be propelled by twin frustrations: its own and that of the American Conference. The National Conference has pounded on the AFC representative in four consecutive Super Bowls. In the last two, the victim was Denver. It is getting on AFC nerves. There is a lot of sentiment around the AFC that the Browns are the team best equipped to retrieve some honor. When someone asked Chuck Noll, the Pittsburgh coach, why the Steelers made Aaron Jones, the defensive end from Eastern Kentucky, their No. 1 draft choice, Noll replied: "When you select all those skill players, you end up losing the Super Bowl by 38 points. Super Bowls are still won by blocking and tackling." The Broncos lost to Washington by 32 points, not 38, in Super Bowl XXII, but it was obvious that Noll's observation still was a jab at them.



Other AFC coaches suggested after the Super Bowl that Cleveland would have been a better delegate to the game because of its greater size and better balance. But wishing won't get the Browns into anything. They'll have to make at least some improvements. They began that at draft time, adding some needed pass-rush help with Florida's blitzing linebacker, Clifford Charlton, and Clemson defensive tackle Michael Dean Perry, the 'Fridge's' younger brother. Another year of experience for Bernie Kosar, the brainy quarterback, also should help.

But if the Browns falter again, Denver remains a Super Bowl possibility for the third consecutive year, something only the Miami Dolphins of the 1970s have pulled off. The Broncos are still too small, their running game's too flimsy, and their defense is too unbalanced, but they do have John Elway at quarterback and a habit of winning consistently.

Aside from the Browns and Broncos, the AFC is full of teams on the make. The Indianapolis Colts accelerated their development with the acquisition of all-pro running back Eric Dickerson, then won the Eastern Division.

The coming of quarterback Jim Kelly to Buffalo was followed by the Bills' construction of an exciting new defense built around pass-rushing end Bruce Smith and kid linebackers Shane Conlan and Cornelius Bennett.

In Pittsburgh, Noll is reviving the Steelers in the same manner he nurtured his four-time Super Bowl champions: with a strong, intimidating defense and an offense that is valued mostly for what it doesn't give away.

The Los Angeles Raiders moved in the college draft to restore their reputation. They dealt their way to the selection of Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown of Notre Dame, who gives them a multipronged offensive weapon, and also stocked up on Raider-type defensive prospects.

Houston, which barged into the playoffs and upset Seattle in the wild-card game, is as much a mystery team as an upwardly mobile one. The Oilers lived on the edge last year, both in a football sense and a psychological one. Their coach, Jerry Glanville, did a good job, but he expends a lot of his energy tilting at windmills: feuding with the press, the fans, the NFL front office, and other distractions. Glanville graphically summed up his philosophy by designing a T-shirt that pictured an Oiler helmet colliding with a map of the U.S., a not very subtle symbol of 'us vs. the world.'

In a separate category are the New England Patriots, beset by off-the-field commotion starting with the long and loud change in ownership. At the same time, their coaches and canny personnel chief, Dick Steinberg, have changed the football team for the better with a fast, slick retooling.

Clearly, it's a time of change in the AFC. Not that the teams on the move are without impediments. Indianapolis has an unstable quarterback situation. The Colts can't seem to keep Gary Hogeboom in a reasonable state of health. They demonstrated a lack of faith in young Jack Trudeau by making quarterback Chris Chandler of the University of Washington their top pick in a weak draft. Considering that they had traded away their top picks, the Colts didn't do enough to help themselves in the offseason. They did play some long shots, signing nose tackle Joe Klecko, who had been released by the Jets as too great a medical risk; then signing safety Ray Ellis and defensive end Ezra Johnson, released by Cleveland and Green Bay, respectively.

Buffalo didn't have enough offensive explosion, but the draft is seen as the Bills' remedy. Their first two selections were big-play offensive stars. Oklahoma State halfback Thurman Thomas and a speedy, small-college receiving star, Bernard Ford of Central Florida.

The Steelers changed radically, sending quarterback Mark Malone to the San Diego Chargers and trading for quarterback Todd Blackledge of Kansas City, once a major prospect. Whoever plays quarterback will be in charge of a slow and limited attack. If Pittsburgh becomes a playoff team once again, it will take the same route it followed in the early 1970s in Noll's pioneer days—via defense.

The Patriots lost two important linebackers, Don Blackmon and Steve Nelson, to injury and retirement. They have enough depth to replace them adequately, but there is a bigger worry at quarterback. They will ask Steve Grogan, handicapped by his battered, 35-year-old body, to start once again. Tony Eason is all but phased out. Unpopular with the New England fans to begin with, it's unlikely Eason can mentally survive the public savaging he took from his old teammate, John Hannah. "Steve Grogan looks for the pass receiver," Hannah told an audience last spring. "Tony Eason looks for the pass rush. They ought to dress him in a skirt."

The Raiders broke their 25-year-old custom of staying within the organization by hiring an outsider, Denver's offensive coordinator, Mike Shanahan, to replace Tom Flores, who either retired or was pushed out. Shanahan is considered a bright, innovative strategist, but whether he can coexist with Al Davis remains to be seen. The least Shanahan can do is give the Raiders' defensive plotters some clues on how to find an antidote for Elway, with whom he was extremely close. What Shanahan needs most in his new job is for a whim to strike Bo Jackson that will lead him from a Kansas City Royals' uniform to Raiders' pads full-time.

The Raiders' coaching job was the only one that changed hands after last season, but there are several AFC coaches on the edge in 1988. Sam Wyche's Bengals have been underachieving for too long. Joe Walton may find that the patience of New York Jets' owner Leon Hess is not unlimited. Kansas City owner Lamar Hunt had to be embarrassed by the Chiefs' performance under Frank Gansz after Hunt fired John Mackovic. Al Saunders of San Diego works for one of the NFL's most impatient owners, Alex Spanos.

Some of the individual categories for 1988 could go this way.

- **Rushing:** Eric Dickerson, Indianapolis
- **Passing:** Dan Marino, Miami
- **Receiving:** Al Toon, New York
- **Most Valuable Player:** Bernie Kosar, Cleveland
- **Coach of the year:** Marty Schottenheimer, Cleveland
- **Defensive rookie of the year:** linebacker Clifford Charlton, Cleveland
- **Offensive rookie of the year:** running back John Stephens, New England

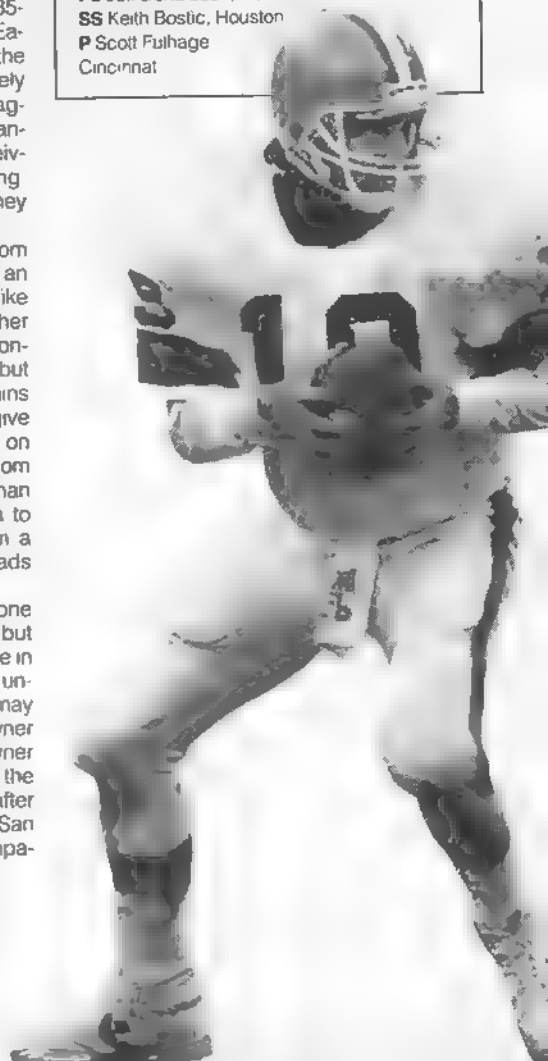
OFFENSE

WR Al Toon, New York;
 Webster Slaughter, Cleveland
TE Clarence Kay, Denver
T Jim Lachey, San Diego
 Tunch Ikin, Pittsburgh
G Roy Foster, Miami, Ron Solt, Indianapolis
C Ray Donaldson, Indianapolis
QB Bernie Kosar, Cleveland
RB Eric Dickerson, Indianapolis
 Kevin Mack, Cleveland
PK Gary Anderson, Pittsburgh

DEFENSE

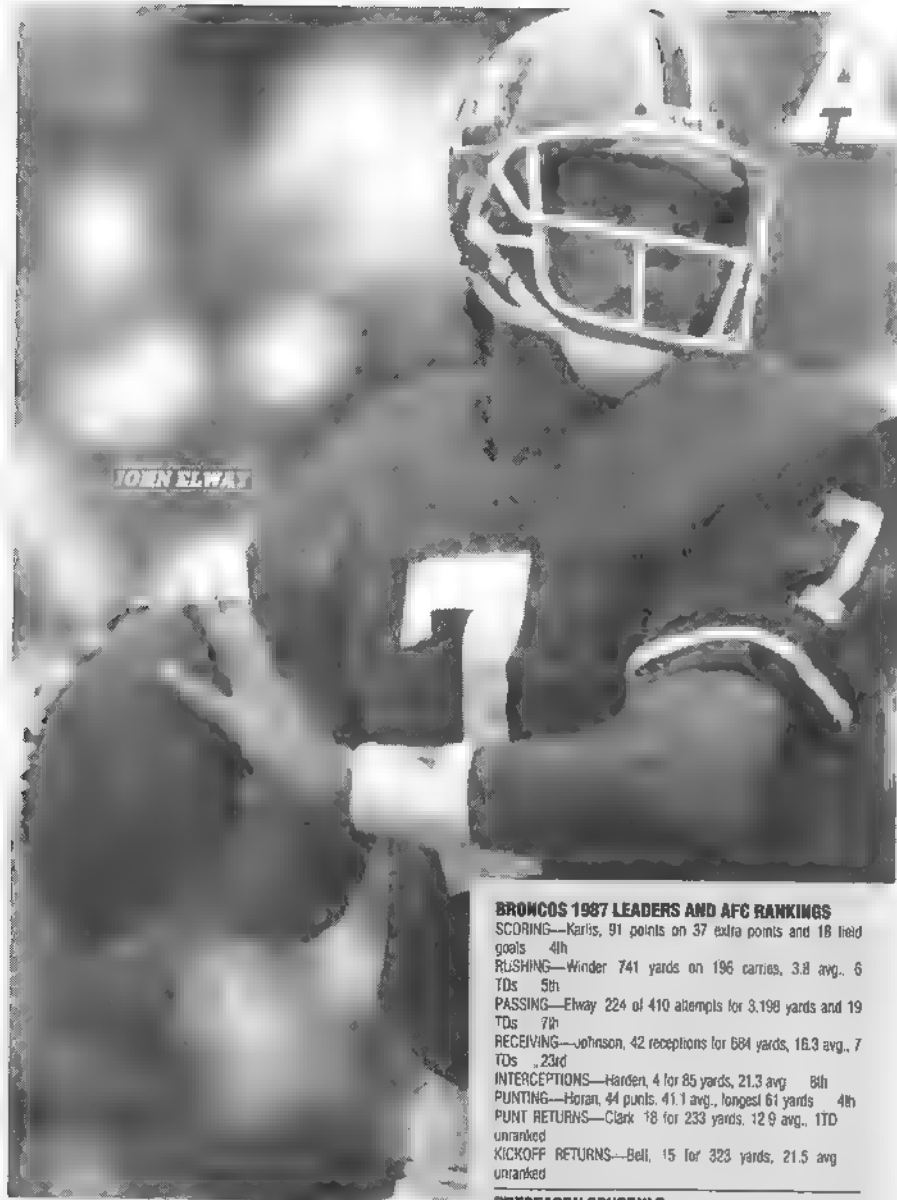
E Bruce Smith, Buffalo
 Howie Long, Los Angeles
NT Bill Maas, Kansas City
OLB Andre Tippett, New England;
 Cornelius Bennett, Buffalo
ILB Shane Conlan, Buffalo
 Brian Bosworth, Seattle
CB Hanford Dixon and Frank Minnifield, Cleveland
FS Jeff Donaldson, Houston
SS Keith Bostic, Houston
P Scott Fulhage, Cincinnati

1988 ALL-AFC TEAM



After two consecutive defeats to the Denver Broncos in the AFC championship game, the Cleveland Browns, behind quarterback Bernie Kosar (right), should make it all the way to the Super Bowl this season.

AFC West



JOHN ELWAY

BRONCOS 1987 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Karris, 91 points on 37 extra points and 18 field goals
4th
RUSHING—Winder 741 yards on 196 carries, 3.8 avg., 6 TDs
5th
PASSING—Elway 224 of 410 attempts for 3,198 yards and 19 TDs
7th
RECEIVING—Johnson, 42 receptions for 684 yards, 16.3 avg., 7 TDs
23rd
INTERCEPTIONS—Harden, 4 for 85 yards, 21.3 avg.
8th
PUNTING—Horan, 44 punts, 41.1 avg., longest 61 yards
4th
PUNT RETURNS—Clark 18 for 233 yards, 12.9 avg., 1 TD
unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Bell, 15 for 323 yards, 21.5 avg.
unranked

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 3 At L.A. Rams (W)
 13 SAN FRANCISCO (N)
 19 At Miami (N)
 25 INDIANAPOLIS (N)

1988 SCHEDULE

		1987 SCORES
September	4 SEATTLE	40-17
	11 SAN DIEGO	24-0
	18 At Kansas City	26-17
	26 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS (N)	30-14
October	2 At San Diego	31-17
	9 At San Francisco	—
	16 ATLANTA	—
	23 At Pittsburgh	—
	31 At Indianapolis (N)	—
November	6 KANSAS CITY	20-17
	13 CLEVELAND	—
	20 At New Orleans	—
	27 LOS ANGELES RAMS	—
December	4 At Los Angeles Raiders	23-17
	11 At Seattle (N)	21-28
	17 NEW ENGLAND	31-20

DENVER BRONCOS

There is no doubt about the Broncos' pedigree. The proof is available in all the vital statistics: division championships and playoff appearances in the last five years, 10-victory seasons, home and road results and overall record during the last five years, and AFC titles in 1986-87. But the poundings Denver absorbed at the hands of the New York Giants and the Washington Redskins in the last two Super Bowls cannot be measured by statistics. Nor can the psychic damages be washed away by pointing out that the Broncos still have the quarterback, John Elway, most likely to lead a team to another Super Bowl. Elway's reputation was damaged by the Redskins' defense.

On the other hand, the Broncos still look like the best team in the AFC West. That may say more about the division than it does about the incumbent conference champions. Denver needs overhauls in its defense, running game, and offensive line.

Washington raised some questions about the Denver defense in the second quarter of Super Bowl XXII when it scored an astounding

35 points. The Broncos could not penetrate the protection around quarterback Doug Williams, nor could they begin to hold the Redskins' running game in check. The Denver defense could not begin to cover Washington's smurf receivers. It is obvious that the Broncos have difficulties with large, physical teams. There are enough of those on this year's

schedule: Cleveland, the Los Angeles Rams, Indianapolis, and San Francisco in addition to the usual division toughies.

For a team that gets overpowered by larger opponents, the Broncos made a strange choice with their first selection in the draft. They picked the hard-knocking nose tackle from Syracuse, Ted Gregory, who was surprised himself that he was taken in the first round. Gregory is a fine player—a fierce competitor, and terrific leader, but at 6-foot-1 and 260 pounds, he doesn't have the size to be a dominating player. Besides, he was hurt too often during his college days. Gregory is not the type of defender who is going to change the Broncos' image. Denver followed up by selecting safety Kevin Gundy of LSU and cornerback Corris Ervin of Central Florida. Gundy was not rated highly by most other scouts and Ervin is a long-range prospect, so the Broncos aren't going to get much immediate help on defense.

If the Broncos repeat as the AFC Super Bowl representative again, it will be with the same basic defense they fielded last year. The one big difference would be if Gregory unseats Greg Kragen at nose tackle. For a team that allowed just 288 points a year ago, Denver doesn't have much of a pass rush. It centers around two players, end Rulon Jones and Karl Mecklenburg, who functions as both an inside linebacker and down lineman. Jones had seven sacks and Mecklenburg six. Jones weighs just 260 pounds, Mecklenburg 230, and Kragen 245. The only down lineman with any size is 275-pound Freddie Gilbert, who was hurt all last year. Everyone, especially Mecklenburg, got handled by Washington.

Presumably the Broncos' 1988 opposition will learn things from the Super Bowl films, but coach Dan Reeves and defensive coordinator Joe Collier plan to use Mecklenburg almost exclusively inside when he plays linebacker this year. He was used on the outside a lot last season and teams ran away from him. Michael Brooks, who was worked in slowly as a rookie because of a knee injury he suffered in his senior year at LSU, will challenge either Ricky Hunley or veteran Jim Ryan for a linebacking job. Ryan has played nine years and is showing some wear. "Hunley had a poor year," Reeves said bluntly. Simon Fletcher, the biggest linebacker at 240 pounds, improved on the outside.

Because of their flimsy pass rush the Broncos need a player who can get out of the secondary. There is a lot of skill and leadership back there. Mike Harden switched from cornerback, had a big year at strong safety until he broke his arm before the AFC championship game. Mark Haynes had his best year at left corner since coming over from the Giants in a trade. Tony Lilly was stable enough in his first year as the starting free safety. Right corner may be a mystery position, with Steve Wilson and Jeremiah Castille battling for the job. If neither is the answer, Collier can move Harden back to corner and reinstall Dennis Smith, who missed a month of the season due to injury, at strong safety.

Offensively, Denver needs another outstanding season from Elway. Last year he threw for 3,198 yards and 19 touchdowns and produced some enormous leadership. He drilled the Chicago Bears for 341 yards and three touchdown passes when Denver needed a lift after being upset by Buffalo. When they were about to fall out of the lead in the division on December 6, the Broncos were rescued by a 28-point, second-half comeback against New England, led by Elway's two touchdown passes.

Elway needs to be just as good or better this year, since Denver may be without its most explosive runner, Gerald White, and there are injury problems in the offensive line. White, averaging 5.4 yards a carry at the time, suffered a broken leg at midseason and his future is in doubt. Sammy Winder, a plugger who led the team with 741 yards, is the most dependable ball carrier. Gene Lang and Steve Sewell are role players. Elway himself adds zest to the running game. He was the second-leading ground gainer (304 yards) and scored four times.

The Denver receiving corps could be more potent with another year of experience for Ricky Nattiel, who broke in with 31 catches and a 20.3-yard average, then led the team in

playoff receptions. Speedy Vance Johnson had 42 catches, seven of which were for touchdowns, to lead the Broncos.

Reeves thinks that Clarence Kay can become one of the NFL's premier tight ends. Kay became more prominent in the pass offense in 1987, catching 31 balls for 440 yards. He starred in the 34-10 playoff victory against Houston, catching two touchdown passes and setting up a touchdown with a 29-yard reception. Long before he was known as a receiver, Kay contributed heavily to the Denver running game with his blocking.

There may be some major moves in the offensive line, which could be a playoff factor. Dave Studdard, the long-time left tackle, suffered a career-threatening knee injury. Jim Junga, who has sketchy experience and is

also returning from a knee injury, may replace him. With Billy Bryan retired, Keith Hartz could move from tackle to center. The only stable positions are the guards, with Pro Bowler Keith Bishop and Bear reject Stefan Humphries, and right tackle with veteran Ken Lanier. Not one of the key linemen weighs over 270 pounds, which is liliptian by today's NFL standards. Tackle Ron Heller, obtained in a trade with Tampa Bay, could help. Elway was sacked only 20 times last year, but he is among football's most mobile quarterbacks.

Rich Karlis is a reliable place-kicker. His 72.6 field-goal percentage is the best in the team's history. Mike Horan was the NFL's eighth-ranked punter (41.1-yard average).

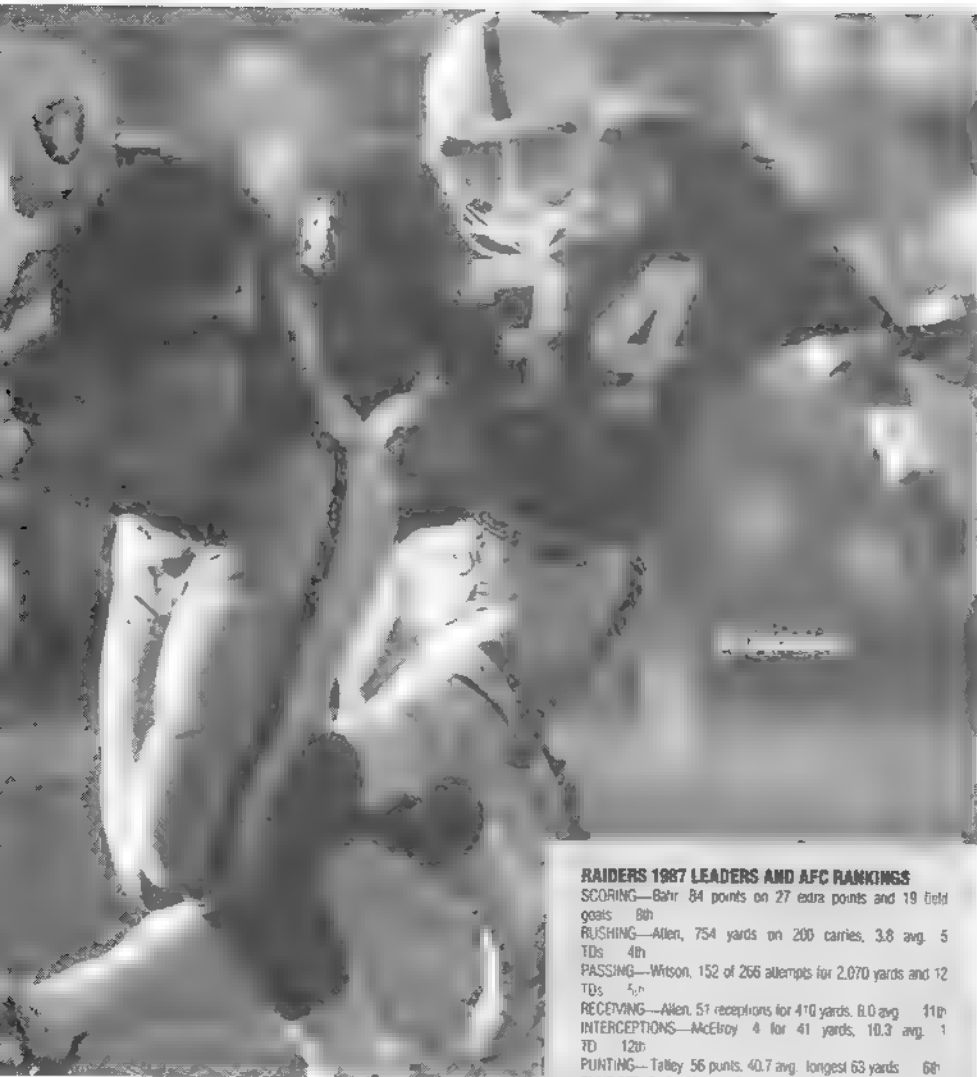
BRONCOS ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
86	Andrews, Mitch	TE	6-2	239	24	LSU
35	Bell, Ken	RB	5-10	190	24	Boston College
54	Bishop, Keith	OL	6-3	265	31	Baylor
67	Bowyer, Walt	DE	6-4	260	28	Arizona St.
34	Braxton, Tyrone	S	5-11	174	24	No. Dakota St.
56	Brooks, Michael	LB	6-1	235	24	LSU
64	Bryan, Billy	C	6-2	255	32	Duke
95	Bryan, Steve	OL	6-2	256	24	Oklahoma
28	Castille, Jeremiah	DB	5-10	175	27	Alabama
69	Colombo, Tony	DE	6-5	260	23	JSC
55	Dennison, Rick	LB	6-3	220	30	Colorado St.
7	Elway, John	QB	6-3	210	28	Stanford
71	Fletcher, Simon	DE	6-5	240	26	Houston
62	Freeman, Mike	G	6-3	256	27	Arizona
30	Gilbert, Freddie	DE	6-4	275	26	Georgia
83	Graddy, Sam	WR	5-10	185	24	Tennessee
31	Harden, Mike	CB	6-1	192	29	Michigan
76	Haynes, Mark	CB	5-11	195	30	Colorado
78	Hood, Winford	OG	6-3	265	25	Georgia
2	Horan, Mike	P	5-11	190	29	Long Beach St.
79	Humphries, Stefan	G	6-3	268	26	Michigan
98	Huntley, Ricky	LB	6-2	238	27	Arizona
80	Jackson, Mark	WR	5-9	174	25	Purdue
82	Johnson, Vance	WR	5-11	185	25	Arizona
74	Jones, Rulon	DE	6-6	280	30	Utah St.
66	Junga, Jim	T	6-6	269	23	Illinois
12	Karcher, Ken	QB	6-3	205	25	Tulane
1	Karlis, Rich	K	6-0	180	29	Cincinnati
88	Kay, Clarence	TE	6-2	237	27	Georgia
97	Klostermann, Bruce	LB	6-4	225	25	So. Dakota St.
71	Kragen, Greg	NT	6-3	245	28	Utah State
72	Kurtz, Keith	T	6-4	270	25	California
8	Kuback, Gary	DB	6-0	192	27	Texas A&M
33	Lang, Gene	RB	5-10	196	26	LSU
76	Lanier, Ken	T	6-3	269	29	Florida State
68	Lee, Larry	OL	6-2	263	29	UCLA
22	Lilly, Tony	S	6-0	199	26	Florida
59	Lucas, Tim	LB	6-3	230	27	California
29	Marshall, Warren	RB	6-0	216	24	James Madison
85	Massie, Rick	WR	6-1	190	27	Kentucky
77	Mecklenburg, Karl	LB	6-3	230	28	Minnesota
46	Micho, Bobby	RB/TE	6-3	240	23	Texas
89	Mobley, Orson	TE	6-5	256	25	Salem
51	Murford, Marc	LB	6-2	231	22	Nebraska
84	Nattiel, Ricky	WR	5-9	180	22	Florida
38	Plummer, Bruce	DB	6-1	197	24	Mississippi St.
7	Provencher, Andrew	DE	6-3	267	27	South Carolina
74	Ramsberg, Dan	T	6-6	275	26	Arlene Christian
48	Robbins, Randy	S	6-2	189	26	Arizona
50	Ryan, Jim	LB	6-1	225	31	William and Mary
30	Sewell, Steve	RB/WR	6-3	218	24	Oklahoma
49	Smith, Dennis	S	6-3	200	29	JSC
70	Studdard, Dave	T	6-4	260	33	Texas
61	Townsend, Andre	OL	6-3	265	26	Mississippi
81	Watson, Steve	WR	6-4	195	31	Temple
56	Wilkinson, Rafe	LB	6-3	235	21	Richmond
47	White, Gerald	RB	5-10	200	28	San Jose St.
45	Wilson, Steve	CB	5-10	195	31	Howard
23	Winder, Sammy	RB	5-11	203	29	So. Mississippi

DRAFTED

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Gregory, Ted	DT	6-1	260	Syracuse
2	Perry, Gerald	T	6-5	304	Southern
3	Guidry, Kevin	DB	6-0	176	LSU
5	Ervin, Corlis	DB	6-1	184	Central Florida
7	Kelly, Pat	TE	6-5	239	Syracuse
7	Frank, Garry	C	6-4	300	Mississippi St.
9	Farr, Mel	RB	6-0	216	UCLA
10	Williams, Channing	RB	5-9	221	Arizona State
11	Calvin, Richard	PB	6-0	200	Washington St.
12	Carter, Johnny	NT	6-3	263	Gambling State





LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

Has it come to this for the Raiders? Are they a team that must count on a part time player to win any games? That is what happened a year ago. The only games L.A. won after the strike were against Seattle and Buffalo, when Bo Jackson was in their lineup and flying. Without Bo playing a major role, the Raiders demonstrated that they could lose to anyone.

Conventional wisdom around the NFL is that Al Davis, the Raiders' major domo, has spent so much time in courts of law in the last few years that he lost contact with what was happening in football, which was unlike Davis. The Raiders' recent won-lost records suggest that there may be something to conventional wisdom. Davis, however, definitely was paying attention before the annual college draft. First he dealt defensive end Sean Jones, whom he deemed expendable, to Houston and turned the Oilers' first draft choice into Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown. Later he dealt with San Francisco for another first round pick, which he used to draft Scott Davis, a defensive lineman from Illinois who has Raider size and temperament. In between, he used the Raiders' own first round choice to select Terry McDanel, a Tennessee cornerback who excels at coverage. Within the next two years, all three rookies should play big roles in restoring the Raiders' reputation.

RAIDERS 1987 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Bahr, 84 points on 27 extra points and 19 field goals. 8th
RUSHING—Allen, 754 yards on 200 carries, 3.8 avg. 5
TDs. 4th
PASSING—Wilson, 152 of 266 attempts for 2,070 yards and 12
TDs. 5th
RECEIVING—Allen, 57 receptions for 410 yards, 8.0 avg. 11th
INTERCEPTIONS—McElroy, 4 for 41 yards, 10.3 avg. 1
TD. 12th
PUNTING—Talley, 56 punts, 40.7 avg., longest 63 yards. 6th
PUNT RETURNS—Woods, 26 for 189 yards, 7.3 avg. 9th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Mueller, 27 for 588 yards, 21.8 avg. 3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 6 at San Francisco (W)
13 DALLAS
20 WASHINGTON (W)
26 at Chicago

1988 SCHEDULE

		1987 SCORES
September	4 SAN DIEGO	17-23
	11 at Houston	—
	18 LOS ANGELES RAMS	—
	26 at Denver (W)	14-30
October	2 CINCINNATI	—
	9 MIAMI	—
	16 at Kansas City	10-16
	23 at New Orleans	—
	30 KANSAS CITY	35-17
November	6 at San Diego (W)	14-16
	13 at San Francisco	—
	20 ATLANTA	—
	28 at Seattle (W)	37-14
December	4 DENVER	17-23
	11 at St. Louis	34-21
	18 SEATTLE	13-35

Davis' selection of Denver offensive coordinator Mike Shanahan as his new head coach will be analyzed even more closely than the draft choices. But what Davis has not done yet is acquire a quarterback who can play up to the team's traditional standards. These Raiders don't have the right stuff without one. Will they try to resurrect Rusty Hilger, their main project for 1987 that went wrong almost from the start? Will they try to develop Steve Beuerlein, Brown's old Notre Dame bat-

tery mate, who didn't get much of a chance as a rookie? Will they make a trade? Or even try to prop up 40-year-old Jim Plunkett?

Chances are they will go against the grain and stay with the much maligned Marc Wilson. He threw for 2,070 yards and a dozen touchdowns last year, mediocre stuff, but the Raiders could give him far more interesting support in 1988. For one thing, there is Brown, who is a major talent running patterns anywhere on the field. Then there is James Lofton, the ex-Green Bay all-pro, who acclimated himself to his new surroundings late last season and finished with 41 catches, five touchdowns, and an eye-popping 21.5-yard average. Despite his 32 years, Lofton can still fly. He may have a number of weaknesses, but Wilson can throw long and now, with Lofton, Brown, and ex-Canadian League star Mervyn Fernandez, who broke in without much impact a year ago, the Raiders have deep speed.

Thanks to Jackson, the Raiders finished first in rushing in the AFC. Bo averaged an amazing 6.8 yards on his 81 carries, gaining 554 yards. Marcus Allen gained 754 yards, fourth in the conference. He also caught 51 passes. There is a fresh look to the power running, too. Vance Mueller averaged 4.7 yards on 37 carries in his second pro season. Steve Strachan, now a four-year pro, averaged 3.9 on 37 attempts. They could become more prominent this year.

Tight end Todd Christensen is not quite the weapon he used to be, but he still caught 47 passes and made the Pro Bowl. Christensen, fiercely active in the players' association, might have been distracted by the strike.

The offensive line is not what Raider fans have come to expect. In spite of the team's first-place finish in rushing, L.A. doesn't overpower opponents as it used to. The quarter-



backs were sacked 53 times which was the second-worst in the AFC after the New York Jets 66. The best lineman, center Don Moserbar, had offseason back surgery again. Patrick discard Brian Holoway returns for one more season, at least, at tackle. John Clay started as a rookie, but he didn't contribute anything special. There is a crowd at guard Bill Lewis tries to hold off Charley Hannah and Chris Riehm at left guard while Bruce Wilkerson and ex-Eagle Dean Miraldi fight it out on the right side.

What the Raiders need defensively is a big year from both Howie Long and nose tackle Bill Pickel. Pickel suffered from a foot injury last season and Long just had a year that wasn't near his standards. Yet the Raiders still finished second in the AFC with 44 sacks. Ricky Townsend, the pass-rush specialist, led with 8½. Long had just four. Bob Buczkowski the No. 1 draftee of three years ago, who has been slowed by injuries, gets his big chance with Jones traded to Houston. If he doesn't make it, there will have to be a crash course for Scott Davis, who wasn't known as a big-play guy at Illinois. There could be a surprise from Tim Rother of Nebraska, who was a gift in the fourth round. Rother was among college football's top overachievers. He keeps coming at you in the Raider style.

There is another crisis in the linebacking corps. The old standbys are either eroding with age or just slowing down. Rod Martin is 34, Linden King 33, and Matt Milien is not the intimidator he used to be. Only Jerry Robin-

son, a starter on the outside, and inside backer Reggie McKenzie played particularly well. The Raiders drafted one of the top sleepers, linebacker Edwin Grabisna of Case Western Reserve, in the sixth round. He is a superb athlete, but he needs a lot of work.

McDaniel was the fastest cornerback in the draft. He isn't even close to reaching his potential, since he was a track star at Tennessee, which took away some of his time with the football team. He had some problems with possession receivers, which should be corrected by pro coaching. The Raiders also drafted two other defensive backs, UCLA's Dennis Price, who intercepted four passes in the Hula Bowl and Oklahoma safety Derrick Crudup, who is near linebacker size. The stockpiling is understandable. Corners Michael Haynes and Lester Hayes are at or near the end. The Raiders are the last bastion of man-for-man coverages, and ex-Cardinal Lorne Washington did not adjust well in changing from zone defenses. On the other hand, safeties Vann McElroy and Stacey Toran are still solid players.

Good special-teams play used to be a Raider trademark, but only Mueller's kickoff returns, a 21.8-yard average, were anything out of the ordinary. That's why Brown is such a plus. It would not be a surprise if he ranked with the NFL's best return men as a rookie. The kicking game is now an adventure in the L.A. Coliseum. Chris Bahr missed seven of 10 field goals beyond 40 yards. Stan Talley's punting made no one forget Ray Guy.

RAIDERS DEFENSIVE BACKS

no.	name	pos.	ht	wt	age	college
44	Adams, Stefon	S	5-10	185	25	East Carolina
32	Allen, Marcus	RB	6-2	205	28	Southern Cal
33	Anderson, Eddie	S	6-1	200	25	Fort Valley St.
10	Bahr, Chris	K	5-10	170	35	Penn. State
56	Barnes, Jeff	LB	6-2	230	33	California
82	Branton, Gene	TE	6-5	245	28	Texas Southern
95	Buczkowski, Bob	DE	6-5	270	24	Pittsburgh
	Buddle, Brad	G	6-4	271	30	Southern Cal.
46	Christensen, Todd	TE	6-3	230	32	Brigham Young
78	Clay, John	T	6-5	285	24	Missouri
45	Davis, James	S	6-0	195	31	Southern
11	Evans, Vince	QB	6-2	200	33	Southern Cal
2	Fellows, Ron	CB	6-0	175	30	Missouri
86	Fernandez, Mervyn	WR	6-3	200	29	San Jose St.
63	Gesek, John	OL	6-5	275	25	Sacramento St.
73	Hannah, Charley	G	6-5	265	33	Alabama
27	Hawkins, Frank	RB	5-9	210	29	Nevada-Reno
37	Hayes, Lester	CB	6-0	200	33	Texas A&M
22	Haynes, Mike	CB	6-2	190	35	Arizona St.
84	Hester, Jessie	WR	5-11	170	25	Florida St.
12	Higer, Rusty	QB	6-4	205	26	Oklahoma St.
76	Holoway, Brian	T	6-7	285	29	Stanford
34	Jackson, Bo	RB	6-1	230	26	Auburn
74	Jordan, Shelby	T	6-7	285	36	Washington (MO)
87	Jurkin, Trey	TE	6-2	230	27	Louisiana Tech
59	Kimmel, Jamie	LB	6-3	235	26	Syracuse
52	King, Linden	LB	6-4	250	33	Colorado State
40	Lae, Zeph	RB	6-3	210	25	Southern Cal
51	Lewis, Bill	OL	6-7	275	25	Nebraska
80	Lifton, James	WR	6-3	190	32	Stanford
75	Long, Howie	DE	6-5	265	28	Villanova
60	Marsh, Curt	G	6-5	275	29	Washington
53	Martin, Rod	LB	6-2	225	34	Southern Cal
65	Martin, Mickey	G	6-4	270	33	Tennessee
26	McElroy, Vann	S	6-2	195	28	Baylor
54	McKenzie, Reggie	LB	6-1	235	25	Tennessee
20	McLemore, Chris	RB	6-1	230	25	Arizona
55	Millen, Matt	LB	6-2	245	30	Penn. State
64	Miraldi, Dean	G	6-6	280	30	Utah
72	Moserbar, Don	C	6-5	275	27	Southern Cal
42	Mueller, Vance	RB	6-0	210	24	Occidental
81	Parker, Andy	TE	6-5	245	27	Utah
71	Pickel, Bill	DT	6-5	260	29	Rutgers
16	Plunkett, Jim	QB	6-2	225	41	Stanford
77	Riehm, Chris	G	6-6	275	27	Ohio State
57	Robinson, Jerry	LB	6-2	225	32	UCLA
43	Seale, Sam	CB	5-9	185	26	Western St.
35	Smith, Steve	RB	6-1	235	24	Penn. State
39	Sirachan, Steve	RB	6-1	220	25	Boston College
5	Talley, Stan	P	6-5	220	30	TCL
61	Taukolo, John	T	6-4	280	29	UCLA
96	Taylor, Malcolm	DT	6-6	280	28	Tennessee St.
30	Toran, Stacey	S	6-3	200	27	Notre Dame
93	Townsend, Greg	DE	6-3	250	27	TCU
48	Washington, Lionel	CB	6-0	185	28	Tulane
67	Wheeler, Dwight	OL	6-3	280	33	Tennessee St.
68	Wilkerson, Bruce	G	6-5	280	24	Tennessee
85	Williams, Duke	WR	5-11	180	28	UCLA
98	Willis, Mitch	DT	6-8	275	26	SMU
6	Wilson, Marc	QB	6-6	205	31	Brigham Young
90	Wise, Mike	DE	6-7	265	24	Cal Davis
88	Woods, Chris	WR	5-11	190	26	Auburn
66	Whitney, Steve	T	6-6	270	29	Northern Iowa

DRAFTED

rd	name	pos.	ht	wt	college
1	Brown, Tim	WR	6-0	195	Notre Dame
1	McDaniel, Terry	CB	5-10	170	Tennessee
1	Davis, Scott	DE	6-7	268	Illinois
4	Rother, Tim	DE	6-7	270	Nebraska
5	Price, Dennis	DB	6-1	170	UCLA
6	Grabisna, Edwin	LB	6-2	243	Case Western
7	Crudup, Derrick	DB	6-2	211	Oklahoma
8	Alexander, Michael	WR	6-2	202	Penn. State
9	Ware, Reggie	RB	6-1	258	Auburn
9	Tabor, Scott	P	6-2	195	California
10	Harrell, Mewi	OT	6-5	310	West Texas St.
11	Weber, David	QB	6-0	215	Carroll (W.V.)
12	Kunkel, Greg	OG	6-6	275	Kentucky



SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

There is something about a players' strike that does unpleasant things to Chuck Knox. Normally the most stable, in-control of coaches, Knox unraveled in 1982 at Buffalo, then resigned after the season. Last year he seemed to age each game as the Seahawks played a disappointing season, then were upset by Houston in the wild-card game. There also is the five-year syndrome. Knox spent five seasons with the L.A. Rams, found himself in an untenable position, and left for Buffalo. After five years with the Bills, he left for Seattle. This is his sixth season with the Seahawks.

As usual, there is an unsettling situation at quarterback. In Los Angeles Knox had five different quarterbacks in as many years. At Buffalo he had only Joe Ferguson, but grew disenchanted with him. In Seattle Knox hasn't led any cheers for Dave Krieg, even when Krieg had 32 touchdown passes in 1984. Last April, Knox dealt three draft choices to the Phoenix Cardinals for the draft rights to Kelly Stouffer. No one knows for sure just how good Stouffer can be, but the biggest thing he may have going for him is that he isn't Dave Krieg. Until Stouffer develops, however, Krieg is still No. 1. On paper, that doesn't seem so bad. Krieg threw for 23 touchdowns in 1987, a percentage of 7.8 TDs per pass, tying Joe Montana of San Francisco for the league lead. But he also was intercepted 15 times, giving him the highest interception rate among the top 10 passers. It isn't just the interceptions, or any other statistics, that trouble Knox. The main rub is that Krieg is inconsistent. He can't string together more than a couple of good games.

There is a concern about Curt Warner, the Seahawks' great halfback. It isn't lingering problems with his surgically repaired knee. Warner erased all worry about that with a 985-yard year, including eight touchdown runs. But he is starting to suffer other little injuries, symptomatic of running backs who carry the ball a lot over extended periods. He suffered a sprained ankle against Houston in the playoffs and the Seahawks didn't have the depth to replace him. Knox moved fullback John L. Williams to running back and it didn't work.

Seattle took a stab in the draft, selecting Kevin Harmon of Iowa in the fourth round. He's a lot like his brother Ronnie of Buffalo, a shifty runner who doesn't always hit the hole aggressively. His forte is catching the ball. If Warner is nicked again, the burden may go to Williams, who gained 500 yards, averaged 4.4 yards a carry, and caught 38 passes in his second pro season.

A major change in Seattle's receiving corps is in the future. Steve Largent may retire after this season. Largent still catches at least a pass a game and last year caught 58, eight for touchdowns. There has to be an asterisk applied, however, as 15 catches and three TDs came in one strike game.

Raymond Butler, picked up as a free agent after the Colts cut him, has been found money. He caught 33 passes, five touchdowns, and averaged 14.1 yards. But Butler is 31 and 1987 might have been a bonus. Daryl Turner is as inconsistent as ever. Almost half his catches, six of 14, went for touchdowns, but he is just as likely to drop the ball as make the big play. As a remedy, Knox drafted Brian Blades, who averaged more than 20 yards a catch during his career at the University of

SEAHAWKS 1987 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Johnson, 85 points on 40 extra points and 15 field goals. 6th
RUSHING—Warner, 985 yards on 234 carries, 4.2 avg., 8 TDs. 2nd
PASSING—Krieg, 178 of 294 attempts for 2,131 yards and 23 TDs. 3rd
RECEIVING—Largent, 58 receptions for 912 yards, 15.7 avg., 8 TDs. 2nd
INTERCEPTIONS—Easley, 4 for 47 yards, 11.8 avg. 11th
PUNTING—Rodriguez, 47 punts, 40.0 avg., longest 63 yards.
PUNT RETURNS—Edmonds, 20 for 251 yards, 12.6 avg. 1st
KICKOFF RETURNS—Edmonds, 27 for 564 yards, 20.9 avg. 5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 4 PHOENIX (N)
11 At Detroit (N)
19 BUFFALO (N)
26 At San Francisco (N)

1988 SCHEDULE

		1987 SCORES
September	4 at Denver	17-40
	11 KANSAS CITY	43-14
	18 at San Diego	—
	25 SAN FRANCISCO	—
October	2 at Atlanta	—
	9 at Cleveland	—
	16 NEW ORLEANS	—
	23 at Los Angeles Rams	—
	30 SAN DIEGO	34-3
November	6 BUFFALO	—
	13 HOUSTON	—
	20 at Kansas City	20-41
	26 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS (N)	14-37
December	4 at New England	—
	11 DENVER (N)	28-21
	18 at Los Angeles Raiders	35-13

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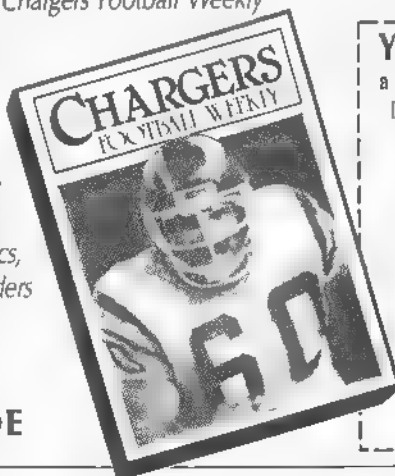
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Miami, and Tommy Kane, who caught 14 touchdown passes and averaged more than 22 yards a catch in his final season at Syracuse. Forget the tight end Mike Tice is considered just another blocker for the running game in this system.

The offensive line is always a Knox asset, but there is age in this one. Center Blair Bush and tackles Mike Wilson and John Borchardt are in their 30s. The strength of the unit is in tackle Ron Mattes and the guards, Bryan Milard and Edwin Bailey.

One of the things that propelled Seattle into the playoffs last year was the best third-down production in the NFL. The Seahawks produced a first down 48.7 percent of the time. One of the more surprising negative statistics were the 314 points surrendered by the defense. The tone seemed to be set in the opening game when Denver beat them, 40-17. This was a Seattle team that had closed the 1986 season with five consecutive, impressive victories and supposedly was fueled by the frustration of not making the playoffs. Yielding 40 points to the Broncos, an eventual Super Bowl team, was one thing. The shock was that three of the weakest teams in the league thumped the Seahawks. The New York

Jets scored 30, the Raiders 37, and Kansas City 41. One of Knox's precepts is that the first task of a successful defense is to stop the run. Seattle finished 26th in the NFL in rushing defense.

To improve that record, the Seahawks have to get consistently good pay from their impressive young linebackers. Freddy Young, who has been to the Pro Bowl as an inside linebacker or special-teams' commando in all four of his pro seasons, combines with Brian Bosworth in what should be one of the more formidable inside linebacking combinations in football. How could they finish so low against the run? Bruce Scholtz, a steady payer, and scrappy, undersized Gene Gaines are the outside backers. It would be a surprise if Tony Woods, last year's first round draftee, did not win a permanent job by pushing either of the incumbents out of the lineup. There is depth, too, with Dave Wyman, Keith Butler, and special-teams' player Sam Merriman.

The primary defensive headache is the loss of Kenny Easley, the strong safety who used to be the best in the NFL at his position and set the tone for the Seahawks. Easley, a stormy central figure in the strike, originally was sent to the Cardinals in the Stouffer deal, but he flunked his physical examination and the trade was restructured. It was found that Easley has a kidney ailment, which puts his football career in jeopardy. Easley's potential replacement is experienced Mark Moore, who spent his entire rookie year on injured reserve. Eugene Robinson does a decent job at free safety, but Terry Taylor and Patrick Hunter were burned regularly at the corners. The Seahawks are very thin back there.

The line could make a difference for the weak secondary. Jacob Green, who finished

third in the AFC with 9½ sacks and went to the Pro Bowl, is a force. So is the underrated Jeff Bryant. Joe Nash gets overpowered at times because he's a small nose tackle. On pass-rush situations, Young acts as a standup defensive end. He blitzed for nine sacks, fourth in the AFC. The Boz added four sacks.

Knox can't afford to have place-kicker Norm Johnson do anything but have a good year. He was 15-for-20 on field goals last year. Ruben Rodriguez, the punter, averaged 40.1 yards, but 17 kicks settled within the 20-yard line. Bobby Joe Edmonds led the AFC in punt returns with a 12.6-yard average and added a 20.9-yard average on kickoff returns.

SEAHAWKS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	H	ht	wt	age	college
65	Bailey, Edwin	G	6-4	275	29	5	S.C. State
62	Barbay, Roland	NT	6-4	260	24	1	LSU
76	Borchardt, John	T	6-5	272	31	1	Montana St.
55	Bosworth, Brian	LB	6-2	248	23	1	Oklahoma
77	Bryant, Jeff	DE	6-5	272	28	1	Clemson
97	Burnham, Tim	T	6-5	280	25	1	Washington
34	Burke, Tony	FB	6-0	220	23	1	Middle Tenn. St.
59	Bush, Blair	C	6-3	272	32	1	Washington
53	Butler, Keith	LB	6-4	239	32	1	Memphis State
83	Butler, Ray	WR	6-3	206	32	1	Southern Cal.
84	Clark, Louis	WR	6-0	206	24	1	Mississippi St.
30	Edmonds, Bob Joe	RB	5-11	186	24	1	Arkansas
54	Feasel, Grant	C	6-7	280	28	1	Arlene Christian
88	Franklin, Byron	WR	6-1	183	30	1	Auburn
56	Gaines, Greg	LB	6-3	222	30	1	Tennessee
7	Gilbert, Gale	QB	6-3	206	27	1	California
79	Green, Jacob	DE	6-3	252	31	1	Texas A&M
47	Hardy, Andre	FB	6-1	233	27	1	St. Mary's
	Heller, Ron	OT	6-6	280	26	1	Penn. State
25	Hollis, David	CB	5-11	175	23	1	UNLV
23	Hunter, Patrick	CB	5-11	185	24	1	Nevada Reno
24	Jenkins, Melvin	CB	5-10	170	26	1	Cincinnati
52	Johnson, M.L.	LB	6-3	225	24	1	Hawaii
9	Johnson, Norm	K	6-2	98	28	1	J.C. A.
26	Justin, Kerry	CB	5-11	165	33	1	Oregon St.
15	Kemp, Jeff	OT	6-0	201	29	1	Lamarville
17	Krieg, Dave	QB	6-1	90	30	1	Milwaukee
37	Lane, Eric	FB	6-0	201	29	1	Boylston Young
80	Largent, Steve	WR	5-11	184	34	1	Tulsa
11	Malison, Bruce	QB	6-3	205	29	1	Nebraska
70	Mattes, Ron	T	6-6	306	25	1	Virginia
51	Merriman, Sam	LB	6-3	237	27	1	Idaho
71	Milard, Bryan	C	6-5	284	28	1	Texas
61	Mur, Alonzo	DE	6-3	273	25	1	Florida
35	Moore, Mark	S	6-0	194	24	1	Oklahoma St.
43	Morris, Randall	RB	6-0	200	26	1	Tennessee
21	Moyer, Paul	S	6-1	207	27	1	Arizona St.
72	Nash, Joe	NT	6-2	257	28	1	Baylor College
73	Powell, Alvin	G	6-5	296	29	1	Winston-Salem
41	Robinson, Eugene	S	6-0	186	25	1	Colgate
5	Rodriguez, Ruben	P	6-2	220	23	1	Arizona
27	Romes, Charles	CB	6-1	190	35	1	N.C. Central
58	Scholtz, Bruce	LB	6-6	242	30	1	Texas
74	Singer, Curt	T	6-5	279	27	1	Tennessee
82	Skandis, Paul	WR	5-11	183	27	1	Washington
81	Stoutler, Kelly	QB	6-3	214	21	1	Colorado St.
87	Stoutler, Wilbur	TE	6-4	255	24	1	Georgia
20	Taylor, Tony	CB	5-10	191	27	1	Southern Illinois
85	Teal, Jimmy	WR	5-11	175	26	1	Texas A&M
86	Tice, Mike	TE	6-7	247	29	1	Maryland
90	Tiplon, Rico	LB	6-2	240	27	1	Washington St.
81	Turner, Daryl	WR	6-3	194	27	1	Michigan St.
28	Wamer, Curt	RB	5-11	206	27	1	Penn. State
32	Williams, John L.	FB	5-11	226	26	1	Florida
91	Williams, Lester	NT	6-3	290	29	1	Miami
75	Wilson, Mike	T	6-5	280	33	1	Georgia
57	Woods, Tony	LB	6-4	244	23	1	Pittsburgh
92	Wyman, David	LB	6-2	229	24	1	Stanford
50	Young, Freddy	LB	6-1	233	27	1	New Mexico St.

DRAFTED

rd.	name	pos.	H	ht	wt	age	college
2	Blades, Brian	WR	5-11	182	182	1	Miami
3	Kane, Tommy	WR	5-11	178	178	1	Syracuse
4	Hampton, Kevin	RB	6-0	200	200	1	Iowa
6	Hart, Roy	NT	6-0	245	245	1	South Carolina
7	Jackson, Ray	QB	5-11	192	192	1	Ohio State
8	Tyler, Robert	TE	6-5	255	255	1	South Carolina St.
9	Wise, Deatrick	NT	6-4	280	280	1	Jackson State
10	Jones, Denwin	DT	6-3	280	280	1	Miami
11	McLeod, Rick	OT	6-6	268	268	1	Washington
11	Harper, Dwayne	DB	5-10	170	170	1	South Carolina St.
12	DesRochers, Dave	OT	6-6	275	275	1	San Diego State



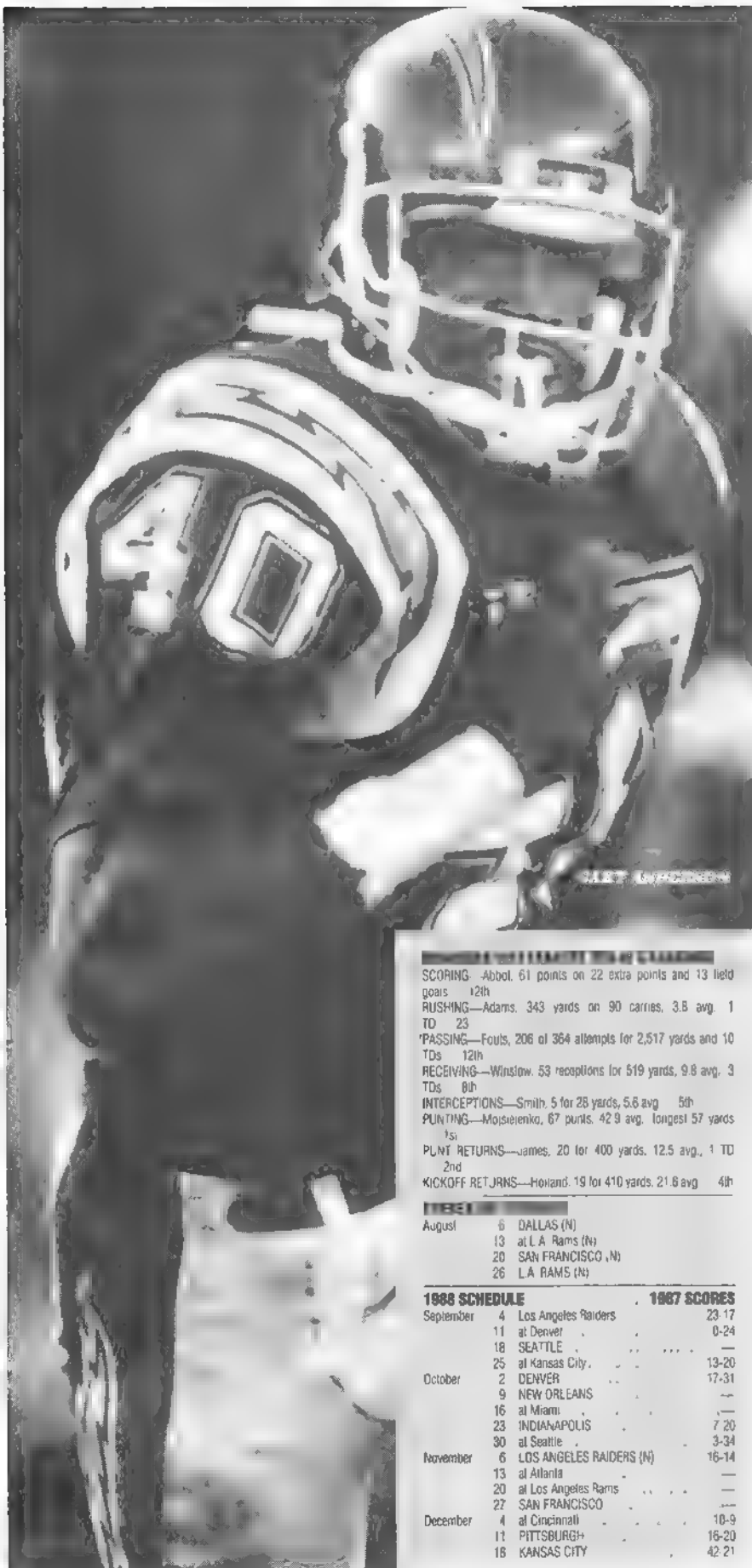
JACOB GREEN



STEVE LARGENT



FREDDY YOUNG



THE CHARGERS' CHALLENGE

Remember Air Coryell? The supersonic pass plays? The Blue Angels style intricacies? What they have now in San Diego is Al's Air Tax Service. With Dan Fouts limping his way to retirement, the opposing defenses shortened the field on the Chargers last year. San Diego aimed its once big guns and little flags popped out of the muzzles reading "Bang!" The chore of coach Al Saunders now is to redesign the offense to cope with the 1990s. If he fails, Saunders may not get to the '90s with the Chargers.

It won't be easy. Saunders will have to make chicken Kiev out of chicken giblets since his new quarterback is Mark Malone, who left Pittsburgh with a mob not far behind. Saunders hired Jerry Rhome, the Washington Redskins' quarterback coach. He is expected to concoct something like Hank Stram's old moving pocket for Malone, since using him as a conventional drop-back passer was a disaster in Pittsburgh. Malone is, to use Don Shula's phrase, "an athlete playing quarterback."

Malone has to run and improvise and travel sometimes strange journeys to be effective. Last year he had the lowest efficiency rating in the NFL (46.7). The next-lowest was the 61.6 by Green Bay's Randy Wright, who lost his job to rookie Don Majkowski. Rhome has to succeed in some manner with Malone. The next quarterback in line is Mark Vasic, a second-year man who is a long-term prospect. Mark Herrmann was dispatched to Indianapolis in a postseason sale. The headiest fantasy built by the Chargers has Kellen Winslow, Rod Bernstein, Gary Anderson, Wes Chandler, and top draftee Anthony Miller of Tennessee on the field at the same time with Malone connecting deep regularly. Dream on, Charger fans.

It is essential that Rhome build some sort of successful passing attack because the Chargers' running game seems to have taken an extended leave of absence. They finished 27th in the NFL in rushing. Only dismal Atlanta was lower. They also fumbled a lot, 38 times in 1987. Journeyman Curtis Adams was the leading ground gainer with a less than modest 343 yards. Veteran fullback Tim Spencer gained 228. The biggest hope for improvement is with Gary Anderson, whose name popped up in a number of deals that were not made last spring. He gained 260 yards, but averaged just 3.3 a carry and his longest run was 25 yards. That is thin stuff for a back of his talent. He was more effective as a receiver, catching 47 for a 10.7-yard average. Maybe Rhome can coax more out of him.

The draft upgraded the pass receiving. The first two picks were Miller and Iowa's Quinn Early. Miller, a track star, averaged 18 yards a catch on 36 receptions for the Vols as a junior, then suffered a knee injury in last season's opening game. He came back to star in the postseason and convince the scouts he has a Willie Gault-type future in the NFL. Early is the Big 10 long-jump champion. He averaged 22 yards a catch as a junior, then went for quantity as a senior, catching 61. As you might expect, his leaping ability is one of his greatest assets. Quick development by either or both of the rookies is essential, since Chandler seems to be sliding. His statistics don't indicate it (39 catches for a 15.8-yard average) but Chandler slumped when the Chargers went into their six-game losing streak in the

1987 SEASON RECORD
SCORING—Abbot, 61 points on 22 extra points and 13 field goals. 12th
RUSHING—Adams, 343 yards on 90 carries, 3.8 avg. 1st
TD 23
PASSING—Fouts, 206 of 364 attempts for 2,517 yards and 10 TDs. 12th
RECEIVING—Winslow, 53 receptions for 519 yards, 9.8 avg. 3rd
TDs 8th
INTERCEPTIONS—Smith, 5 for 28 yards, 5.6 avg. 5th
PUNTING—Mojsienko, 67 punts, 42.9 avg., longest 57 yards. 7th
PLNT RETURNS—James, 20 for 400 yards, 12.5 avg., 1 TD. 2nd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Howard, 19 for 410 yards, 21.6 avg. 4th

1988 SCHEDULE
 August 6 DALLAS (N)
 13 at L.A. Rams (N)
 20 SAN FRANCISCO (N)
 26 L.A. RAMS (N)

1988 SCHEDULE	1987 SCORES
September 4 Los Angeles Raiders	23-17
11 at Denver	0-24
18 SEATTLE	—
25 at Kansas City	13-20
October 2 DENVER	17-31
9 NEW ORLEANS	—
16 at Miami	—
23 INDIANAPOLIS	7-20
30 at Seattle	3-34
November 6 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS (N)	16-14
13 at Atlanta	—
20 at Los Angeles Rams	—
27 SAN FRANCISCO	—
December 4 at Cincinnati	10-9
11 PITTSBURGH	16-20
18 KANSAS CITY	42-21

second half of the season. Saunders used Little Lonel James mostly as a wide receiver. The ex-halfback caught 41 passes for three touchdowns and a 14.5-yard average.

Rhyme will install a Redskins type attack which means heavy use of tight ends. Kellen Winslow, even though he's not the superstar of years ago, still made it to the Pro Bowl with 53 catches and three touchdowns but just a 9.8 yard average. Pete Holohan was traded to San Francisco, but Rod Bernstine, last year's top draftee who broke in with just 10 catches, has enormous potential. Eric Sievers is a valued blocker.

The Chargers have one dynamite offensive lineman, left tackle Jim Lachey, and James FitzPatrick came around as the left guard. Fitz may be tried as the right tackle. If he works out, Sam Clapham might return as the left guard with Dennis McKnight at right guard and 34-year-old Don Macek at center. If not, Gary Kowalski or rookie David Richards, who never reached his limits at either SMU or UCLA, would battle for the right-tackle job. Stacy Searels of Auburn is another rookie possibility at guard.

San Diego led the AFC in sacks with 45, which may be a little deceptive. A number of those came in the three strike games, all Charger victories. Saunders got some bad news, even though it was expected. Leslie O'Neil, the pass-rushing rookie star of two years ago, is probably finished with football due to his serious knee injury. Still, there is Lee Williams, who had eight sacks last year. Rookie Joe Campbell of New Mexico probably will be worked in as the designated pass rusher. The Chargers rated Campbell much higher than most other NFL teams. Les Miller will play against the run. Mike Charles, banished by Miami for lack of discipline and excess of weight, played better for the Chargers. He alternates at nose tackle with Chuck Ehin.

The Chargers have to get improved play from their line, inside linebackers, and safeties against the run. They gave up 144 yards a game, one of the poorest records in the league. The outside linebackers are fine. Billy Ray Smith led the defense with 88 tackles and intercepted five passes, more than any other AFC linebacker. He didn't make the Pro Bowl but many thought he should have. Chip Banks had a great first half after arriving in a trade with Cleveland. He fizzled somewhat during

the second-half slump. Young David Brandon has some possibilities on the outside. The Chargers have to do better than Thomas Benson and Gary Plummer on the inside.

Vencie Genn established himself as a free safety to watch. He is the Chargers' best open-field tackler and he intercepted four passes, one of which he returned an NFL-record 103 yards against Denver. The corners are Elvis Patterson, who just acquired the nickname "Toast" as a New York Giant because he was burned so often, and either of two journeymen, Danny Waters or Gill Byrd.



Martin Bayless did a commendable job at strong safety after arriving from Buffalo in a trade, but Jeff Dale comes off the injury list to challenge him.

Ralf Moisiejenko's 42.9-yard punting average put him in the Pro Bowl. Vince Abbott's 13-for-22 field-goal performance put him in a shaky position. James returned punts at a 12.5-yard rate and took one 81 yards for a TD.

With all their problems, it was a triumph for Saunders to win five non-strike games last year. He may have trouble duplicating the accomplishment in 1988.

CHARGERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
10	Abbott, Vincent	K	5-11	206	29	Fallenell St.
42	Adams, Curtis	RB	5-11	194	26	Central Michigan
40	Anderson, Gary	RB	6-0	181	27	Arkansas
96	Baldwin, Keith	DE	6-4	270	28	Texas A&M
56	Banks, Chip	LB	6-4	236	29	USC
44	Bayless, Martin	SS	6-2	200	26	Bowling Green
57	Benson, Thomas	LB	6-2	235	27	Oklahoma
82	Bernstine, Rod	TE	6-3	235	23	Texas A&M
58	Brandon, David	LB	6-4	225	23	Oklahoma St.
38	Brock, Lou	CB	5-10	175	24	USC
55	Busick, Steve	LB	6-4	227	30	USC
22	Byrd, Gill	DB	5-11	196	27	San Jose St.
89	Chandler, Wes	WR	6-0	188	32	Florida
71	Charles, Mike	NT	6-4	287	26	Syracuse
77	Clapham, Sam	OL	6-6	288	32	Oklahoma
37	Dale, Jeff	SS	6-3	213	26	LSU
61	Dallatin, Ken	G	6-4	278	29	Minnesota
36	Davis, Mike	SS	6-3	205	32	Colorado
78	Ehin, Chuck	NT	6-4	266	27	Brighton Young
45	Faucette, Chuck	LB	6-3	238	26	Maryland
70	FitzPatrick, James	OL	6-7	286	24	USC
25	Glenn, Vencie	FS	6-0	187	24	Indiana St.
68	Gobel, Joe	C	6-5	264	25	UCLA
92	Harrison, Dee	DE	6-4	291	32	North Carolina
86	Holland, James	WR	6-1	166	24	Ohio State
27	Hunter, Daniel	CB	5-11	178	26	Henderson St.
24	Jackson, Ellis	CB	5-9	175	25	Memphis State
52	Jackson, Jeffrey	LB	6-1	230	27	Auburn
26	James, Lonel	WR	5-6	170	26	Auburn
21	Jones, Nelson	DB	6-1	190	24	N.C. St.
0	Kelley, Mike	QB	6-3	195	29	Georgia Tech
94	Kirk, Randy	LB	6-2	235	24	San Diego St.
88	Kowalski, Gary	OL	6-6	273	28	Boston College
74	Lachey, Jim	T	6-6	289	25	Ohio State
51	Low, Woodrow	LB	6-0	229	34	Alabama
62	Macek, Don	C	6-2	270	34	Boston College
73	MacEskey, Joe	T	6-7	305	23	Texas El Paso
60	Malone, Mark	QB	6-4	224	30	Arizona State
60	McKnight, Dennis	OL	6-3	270	29	Drake
69	Miller, Les	DE	6-7	285	23	Fr. Hyatt St.
2	Moisiejenko, Ralf	P	6-3	212	25	Michigan St.
91	O'Neil, Leslie	DE	6-4	255	24	Oklahoma St.
34	Patterson, Elvis	CB	5-11	198	28	Kansas
93	Pettit, Duane	DE	6-4	165	24	San Diego St.
75	Phillips, Joe	DE	6-5	275	25	SMU
50	Plummer, Gary	LB	6-2	240	28	California
53	Pryce, Stacey	LB	6-2	194	26	Arkansas State
20	Redden, Barry	RB	5-10	219	28	Richmond
66	Rosado, Dan	G	6-3	280	29	North Illinois
24	Scott, Kevin	RB	5-9	81	25	Stanford
85	Sievers, Eric	TE	6-4	230	30	Maryland
54	Smith, Billy	LB	6-3	236	27	Arkansas
43	Spencer, Tim	FB	6-1	227	28	Ohio St.
59	Taylor, John	LB	6-4	235	27	Hawaii
76	Thompson, Brod	G	6-4	290	28	Kansas
98	Trines, Terry	DL	6-5	280	26	Colorado St.
13	Vlasak, Mark	QB	6-3	206	25	Iowa
23	Walters, Danny	CB	6-1	200	28	Arkansas
84	Williams, Al	WR	5-10	180	26	Nevada-Reno
99	Williams, Lee	DE	6-5	263	26	Bethune-Cookman
72	Wilson, Karl	DE	6-4	268	24	USU
80	Winslow, Kellen	TE	6-5	25	31	Missouri

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Miller, Anthony	WR	5-11	187	Tennessee
3	Early, Quinn	WR	5-11	185	Iowa
4	Campbell, Joe	DE	6-3	236	New Mexico State
4	Searels, Stacy	OT	6-5	270	Auburn
4	Richards, Dave	OT	6-4	300	UCLA
6	Figaro, Cedric	LB	6-2	235	Notre Dame
9	Howard, Joby	OT	6-5	269	Tennessee
1	Miller, Ed	C	6-4	260	Pittsburgh
11	Hinkle, George	NT	6-6	268	Arizona
12	Phillips, Wendell	DB	5-11	198	North Alabama





KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

He's up! He's down! He's up again! This time he's down on his back! But he struggles to his feet once again! Take your pick. The description fits either quarterback, Bill Kenney or Steve DeBerg. Frank Gansz, the Chiefs' coach, will have to make his pick this season, since he traded Todd Blackledge to Pittsburgh and traded with Tampa Bay for DeBerg. Check the similarity in their 1987 statistical lines, and give DeBerg an asterisk. The NFC is a tougher pass-rush conference.

- Kenney 2,107 yards, 15 touchdown passes, nine interceptions, 85.8 rating
- DeBerg 1,891 yards, 14 touchdown passes, seven interceptions, 85.3 rating

What does it all mean? Just a handy distraction for what isn't likely to happen for Kansas City this season. The Chiefs aren't going anywhere. The best they can hope for is a slight improvement over last year's 4-11 record.

SCORING—Lowery: 83 points on 26 extra points and 19 field goals. 5th

RUSHING—Okoye: 660 yards on 157 carries, 4.2 avg., 3 TDs. 6th

PASSING—Kenney: 154 of 273 attempts for 2,107 yards and 15 TDs. 4th

RECEIVING—Carson: 55 receptions for 1,044 yards, 19.0 avg., 7 TDs. 6th

INTERCEPTIONS—Cherry: 3 for 58 yards, 19.3 avg., 19th

PUNTING—Goodburn: 59 punts, 40.9 avg., longest 55 yards. 5th

PUNT RETURNS—Clemens: 19 for 162 yards, 8.5 avg., 6th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Palmer: 38 for 923 yards, 24.3 avg., 2 TDs. 1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	6	CINCINNATI (N)
	13	At Atlanta (N)
	19	vs. Green Bay (at Milwaukee N)
	25	PHOENIX (N)

1988 SCHEDULE

September	4	CLEVELAND
	11	At Seattle
	18	DENVER
	25	SAN DIEGO
October	2	At New York Jets
	9	At Houston
	16	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS
	23	DETROIT
	30	At Los Angeles Raiders
November	6	At Denver
	13	CINCINNATI (OT) 27-30
	20	SEATTLE
	27	At Pittsburgh
December	4	NEW YORK JETS
	11	At New York Giants
	18	At San Diego

1987 SCORES

14-43
17-26
20-13
—
16-10
27-20
17-35
17-20
41-20
16-17
9-15
—
21-42

CHIEFS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	h.	wt.	age	college
61	Adickes, Mark	G	6-4	270	26	Baylor
76	Alt, John	T	6-7	290	25	Iowa
91	Baldinger, Gary	DL	6-3	265	24	Wake Forest
77	Baldinger, Rich	OL	6-4	285	28	Wake Forest
58	Baugh, Tom	C	6-3	274	24	S. Illinois
99	Bell, Mike	DE	6-4	260	30	Colorado State
34	Burness, Lloyd	SS	6-0	209	30	Maryland
88	Carson, Carlos	WR	5-11	180	29	USU
20	Cherry, Deron	FS	5-11	193	28	Rutgers
46	Clemens, Michael	RB	5-5	166	23	William & Mary
22	Cooritt, Sherman	DB	6-1	192	26	San Jose State
54	Cofield, Tim	LB	6-2	245	24	Elizabeth City St.
61	Colbert, Danell	WR	5-7	174	22	Texas Southern
5	Colbert, Lewis	P	5-11	179	24	Auburn
55	Cooper, Louis	LB	6-2	240	24	W. Carolina
17	DeBerg, Steve	QB	6-3	210	34	San Jose State
50	Del Rio, Jack	LB	6-4	238	24	Southern Cal.
51	Donnalley, Rick	C	6-2	260	28	North Carolina
75	Ealman, Irv	T	6-7	293	26	UCLA
40	Fields, Jitter	DB	5-9	180	25	Texas
2	Goodburn, Kelly	P	6-2	195	25	Emporia State
98	Griffin, Leonard	DE	6-4	258	24	Grambling
92	Guthrie, Keith	DL	6-4	265	24	Texas A&M
56	Hackett, Dino	LB	6-3	228	23	Appalachian St.
57	Harrel, James	LB	6-2	240	30	Florida
86	Harty, Ernie	WR	5-11	175	24	Stanford
85	Hayes, Jonathan	TE	6-5	240	25	Iowa
44	Heard, Herman	RB	5-10	182	25	S. Colorado
23	Hill, Greg	CB	6-1	197	26	Oklahoma State
93	Holle, Eric	NT	6-5	266	27	Texas
53	Howard, Todd	LB	6-2	235	22	Texas A&M
11	Hudson, Doug	QB	6-2	201	22	Nicholls State
60	Ingram, Byron	G	6-2	295	22	E. Kentucky
45	Johnson, Sidney	CB	5-9	170	22	California
73	Jozwiak, Brian	G	6-5	310	24	West Virginia
80	Keel, Mark	TE	6-4	228	25	Arizona
9	Kenney, Bill	QB	6-4	207	32	N. Colorado
74	Koch, Pete	DE	6-6	265	26	Maryland
29	Lewis, Albert	CB	6-2	192	26	Grambling
8	Lowery, Nick	PK	6-4	189	31	Dartmouth
2	McDaid, David	T	6-6	290	27	Georgia Tech
63	Maas, Bill	NT	6-5	268	25	Pittsburgh
89	Marshall, Henry	WR	6-2	216	33	Missouri
32	Morality, Larry	RB	6-1	237	29	Notre Dame
35	Okoye, Christian	RB	6-1	253	26	Azusa Pacific
63	Paise, Stephane	WR	6-2	185	25	Fresno State
26	Palmer, Paul	RB	5-9	184	22	Temple
43	Parker, Robert	RB	6-1	190	25	Bingham Young
96	Pearson, Aaron	LB	6-0	240	23	Mississippi St.
24	Pearson, J. C.	CB	5-11	183	24	Washington
31	Ross, Kevin	CB	5-9	182	25	Temple
10	Sauer, Frank	QB	6-1	195	25	Kansas
97	Snipes, Angelo	LB	6-0	215	24	West Georgia
67	Spi, Art	DE	6-7	255	31	Kentucky
82	Taylor, Kitrick	WR	5-10	183	23	Washington St.
38	Thomas, Carlton	CB	6-0	195	24	Elizabeth City St.
62	Tupper, Jeff	NT	6-5	269	24	Oklahoma
98	Walker, John	DL	6-6	270	26	Nebraska-Omaha
70	Woodard, Ray	DE	6-6	290	26	Texas

DRAFTIES

no.	name	pos.	h.	wt.	college
1	Smith, Neal	DE	6-4	261	Nebraska
3	Porter, Kevin	S	5-10	210	Auburn
4	Ambrose, J. R.	WR	6-0	188	Mississippi
6	Saxon, James	RB	5-11	195	San Jose St.
7	Stedman, Troy	LB	6-3	235	Washington
8	Roberts, Alfredo	TE	6-3	246	Miami
9	Abdull-Raheel, A.	WR	6-0	200	Maryland
10	Gamble, Kenny	RB	5-10	188	Coalgate
11	McManis, Danny	QB	5-11	205	Florida St.



Whoever plays quarterback will have a dandy set of wide receivers once again. Carlos Carson caught 55 passes, averaged 19 yards a catch, and was the only AFC receiver to gain 1,000 yards (1,044). He also scored seven touchdowns. Stephone Paige averaged 16.4 yards on his 43 catches. There isn't much else though. The Chiefs finished 26th in the NFL in pass offense.

Kansas City has some talent, however. Four of the Chiefs—Carson, defensive backs Albert Lewis and Deron Cherry, and nose tackle Bill Maas—went to the Pro Bowl, not bad, considering the win-loss record. The problem is that the Chiefs are still reverberating from the Big Shakeup of 1987, when John Mackovic was fired after getting K.C. into its first playoff in 15 seasons. The idea that Gansz could move smoothly from special-teams' coach to head coach looks somewhat ludicrous now. The Chiefs made the 1986 playoffs with a shaky blend of opportunism, sound defense, great special-teams' play, and a gung-ho attitude. The coaching change damaged the team both in a football and a morale sense.

The wisest course offensively might be to emphasize the running game. It used to be a Kansas City weakness, but it is improving. The top two draftees last year were running backs, Paul Palmer and huge fullback Christian Okoye. Okoye had 660 yards and broke a 43-yard touchdown run. There is some explosion. Herman Heard, who averaged 5.7 yards a carry, had a 64-yard scoring play. Palmer, who averaged 6.5 yards on 24 carries, re-



turned two kickoffs for touchdowns, one for 95 yards. He led the AFC in kickoff returns with a 24.3-yard average, and no one else in the league had more than one return for a score. Of course, any Kansas City return man gets a lot of kickoff practice. Palmer had 10 more returns than anyone in the conference. Palmer will get a good chance to beat out Heard even though he eased casually into his pro career to the unhappiness of his coaches. Heard fumbled seven times on a team that tied San Diego for the most fumbles in the AFC (41).

The Chiefs have the makings of a line that can control the ball. The development of tackle John Alt last year was a reminder that offensive linemen sometimes bloom slowly. The Chiefs hope so, since Irv Eatman, the other tackle, and guard Brian Jozwiak are still in the budding stage. Jozwiak has been bothered by nagging injuries. Mark Adickes is a solid guard. The jury remains out on Tom Baugh as the starting center. Rich Baldinger played right guard when Jozwiak was hurt. Jonathan Hayes has to block from tight end since he won't earn his keep as a receiver.

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The Chiefs' offense scored 20 or fewer points in seven of the 12 non-strike games, so they have to take their points where they can find them. Often they find them off the instep of place-kicker Nick Lowery. The old standby kicked 19 field goals in 23 attempts.

Despite their three Pro Bowlers, the Chiefs' defensive unit finished next to last in the NFL against the run and had one of the weakest



**BILL
KENNEY**

pass rushes in the league, with just 26 sacks. That's one of the reasons Kansas City gave up its second-round draft choice in order to trade up with Detroit in the first round to select Neil Smith, the Nebraska defensive end with the condor wing span. Mike Bell, who came back after doing time for a drug conviction, wasn't the same player. Art Still's best days are behind him. Smith was a necessity



The nicest thing that happened to Gansz since last season was his success in convincing Rod Rust to return to Kansas City from New England to serve as chief of the defense. The Chiefs slumped woefully after defensive coordinator Walt Corey left last year to rejoin Marv Levy in Buffalo. Rust was Corey's old boss on Levy's staff in Kansas City and is considered one of the top defensive strategists in the NFL. His first priority may be to motivate Smith, who had a reputation for doing something awesome then coasting for a couple of plays during his Nebraska career. Eventually, Kansas City likely will line up with Maas at nose tackle and Smith and Bell at the ends. Still, who does not get along with Gansz, could be traded by opening day. The Chiefs still have Pete Koch, who never has approached his potential, and also Leonard Griffin, who is a prospect in the line.

There is an emergency in the linebacking

corps. Tough Dino Hackett is the only major-league talent. Aaron Pearson joins him on the inside. Outside linebacker Tim Cofield appears lost when he isn't called upon to blitz. Ex Saint Jack Del Rio is too slow to be anything but a reserve inside man. Rust will have to squeeze something extra from James Harrell, Angelo Snipes, and Louis Cooper, since the draft brought no reinforcements.

The defensive strength is the secondary, possibly the finest in the AFC. Albert Lewis is one of the best all-round cornerbacks in football and Kevin Ross isn't far behind. Free safety Deron Cherry is a Pro Bowl fixture and may be strong safety Lloyd Burruss should be Mark Robinson is another good strong safety. J.C. Pearson fills the nickel back role well.

So why did the Chiefs use the second-highest draft choice they owned, a third-rounder, to draft Kevin Porter, the Auburn defensive back, when they had far greater needs? Porter was projected by most scouts as a strong safety. The answer may be that the new personnel chief, Whitey Dovell, is inexperienced as a drafter. Most of his career was spent as an assistant coach, but he's the man Gansz hired when Les Miller, the long-time chief scout, was fired. Other than Smith, K.C. didn't seem to address enough needs. After Porter, the next draft choice was Mississippi receiver J.R. Ambrose. The best hope for a bonus came in the seventh round when the Chiefs took a flyer with sleeper outside linebacker Troy Stedman of Washburn, who may require a year or two of polishing.

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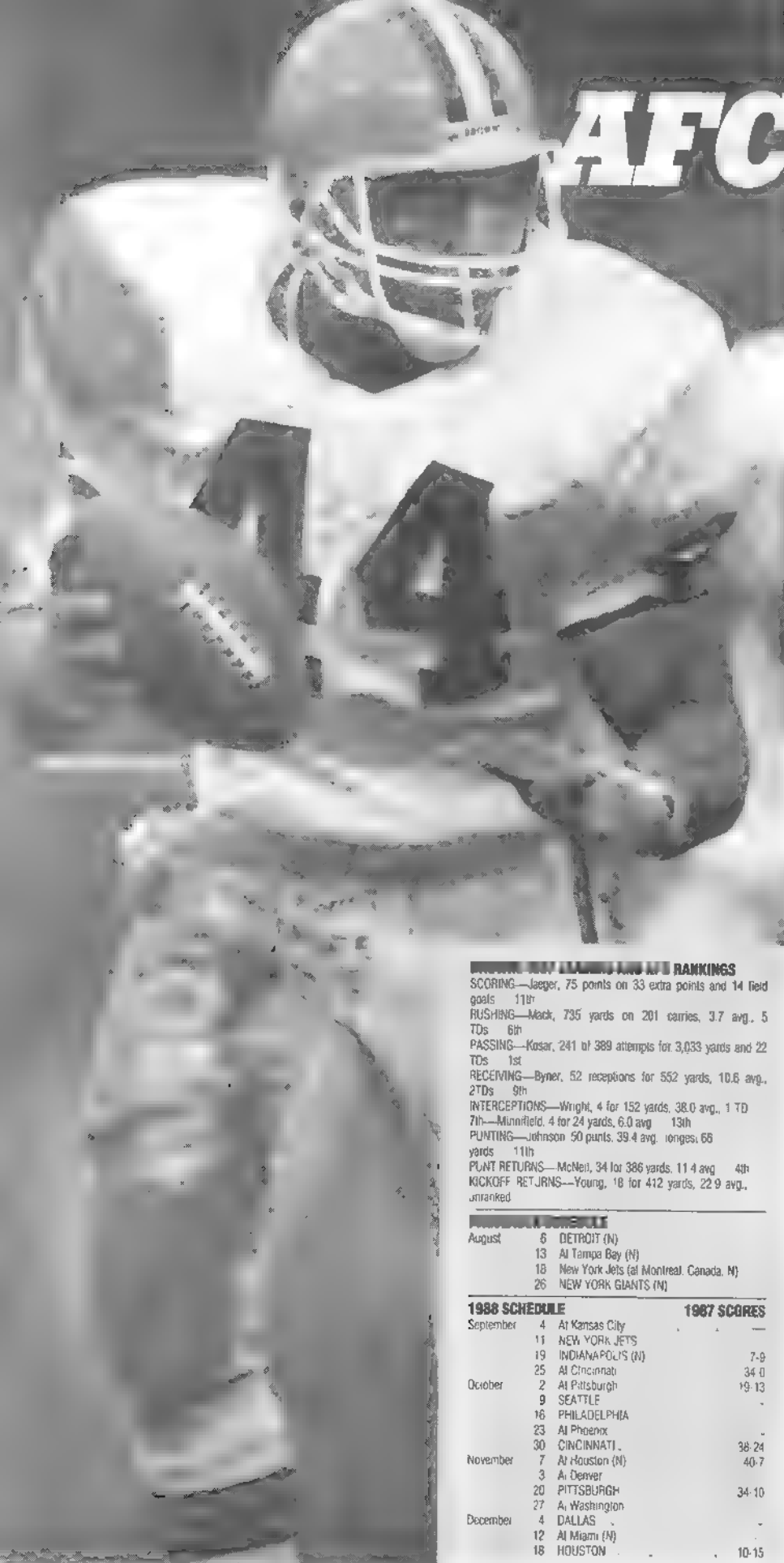
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AFC central

CLEVELAND BROWNS

The answer will be one of these

1 Nothing will stop them from attaining their elusive goal

2 The frustration and the heartbreak of the two previous Januarys will shake their confidence and lead them to self-destruct

The question is: How will the Cleveland Browns react to their second consecutive, ulcer-creating failure against Denver in the American Conference championship game?

According to Marty Schottenheimer, the coach, the answer will be No. 1. "We are more determined than ever," vowed Schottzy. "We will do whatever it takes to win the league championship. We can't feel sorry for ourselves and worry about how we lost our chances the last two years."

There are a lot of believers around the AFC, including some of the Browns' rivals. "They choked, but they choked with class," said Cincinnati linebacker Reggie Williams. Some AFC coaches, including Don Shula of Miami, think that the last two Super Bowls, in which the New York Giants and then Washington crushed Denver, would have been closer had the bigger, more physical Browns been the conference representatives. Not that the Browns are standing pat. "We have to improve," admitted Schottenheimer, "and that's what we'll do. Our current players have to get better. We have to find new players to help us and we have to find new ways to win."

Some of the improvement could come in the play of quarterback Bernie Kosar, even though he already ranks among the NFL's better quarterbacks. Kosar is such a bright player, the more experience he gets, the more dangerous he becomes. His performance in the last playoffs is a case in point. He passed for 585 yards, six touchdowns, a 63.9 completion percentage, and just two interceptions in 72 attempts against Indianapolis and Denver. The Browns averaged just under 36 points in the two games. Kosar's regular-season numbers were similar. He threw for 22 touchdowns, 3,033 yards, a 62.0 completion rate, and an even lower interception ratio.

On the surface, Kosar and the Browns' attack appeared to suffer a loss when offensive coordinator Lindy Infante was hired as Green Bay's new head coach. But Marc Trestman, Kosar's college tutor, was hired as quarterback coach. Schottenheimer did not designate a new offensive coordinator. He will assume some of those duties himself.

Schottenheimer might put more emphasis on the running game. The Browns averaged 116 rushing yards a game in the regular season. In the two playoff games they averaged 151.5 yards. They are a lot better than the No. 21 rushing team in the NFL, which is where they ranked in 1987. Over the last two years Cleveland is 15-0 in games in which they ran for 100 yards.

Kevon Mack and Earnest Byner are two of the most versatile backs in the league. Mack led the Browns with 735 yards rushing and went to the Pro Bowl again, while Byner added 432 yards. But the Browns like to view them in

BROWNS 1987 LEADERS AND NFL RANKINGS

SCORING—Jaeger, 75 points on 33 extra points and 14 field goals. 11th
RUSHING—Mack, 735 yards on 201 carries, 3.7 avg., 5 TDs. 6th
PASSING—Kosar, 241 of 389 attempts for 3,033 yards and 22 TDs. 1st
RECEIVING—Byner, 52 receptions for 552 yards, 10.6 avg., 2 TDs. 9th
INTERCEPTIONS—Wright, 4 for 152 yards, 38.0 avg., 1 TD. 7th—Munnfield, 4 for 24 yards, 6.0 avg. 13th
PUNTING—Johnson, 50 punts, 39.4 avg., longest: 66 yards. 11th
PUNT RETURNS—McNeil, 34 for 386 yards, 11.4 avg. 4th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Young, 18 for 412 yards, 22.9 avg., unranked

1988 SCHEDULE

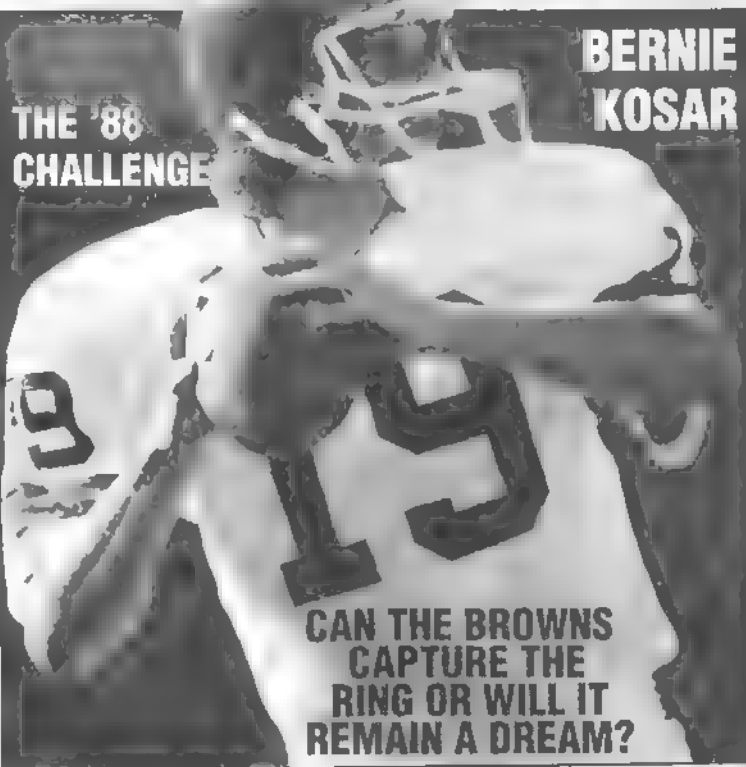
August 6 DETROIT (N)
13 At Tampa Bay (N)
18 New York Jets (at Montreal, Canada, N)
26 NEW YORK GIANTS (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

1987 SCHEDULE	1987 SCORES
September 4 At Kansas City	—
11 NEW YORK JETS	—
19 INDIANAPOLIS (N)	7-9
25 At Cincinnati	34-0
October 2 At Pittsburgh	19-13
9 SEATTLE	—
16 PHILADELPHIA	—
23 At Phoenix	—
30 CINCINNATI	38-24
November 7 At Houston (N)	40-7
3 At Denver	—
20 PITTSBURGH	34-10
27 At Washington	—
December 4 DALLAS	—
12 At Miami (N)	—
18 HOUSTON	10-15

BROWNS

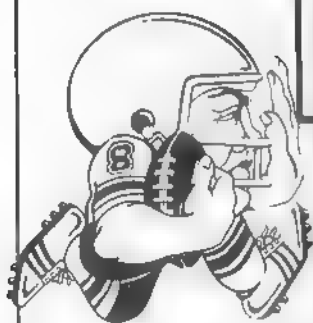
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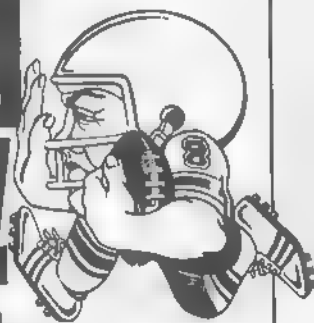
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KOSAR

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CAPTURE THE
RING OR WILL IT
REMAIN A DREAM?



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yards produced from scrimmage, since they throw to them so much. Byner, who led the team with 52 catches, produced 984 total yards, Mack 958. Byner was spectacular in the playoffs, averaging five yards on 38 carries and 14.2 yards on 11 catches and scoring 23 times. Tim Manoa averaged five yards on 24 carries as a rookie. He'll get more work.

The Browns sought a big-play receiver for Kosar and they found him in Webster Slaughter, who averaged 17.1 yards on 47 catches and scored seven touchdowns. Brian Brennan is still the guy Kosar goes to when he needs a possession catch. Brennan averaged 14.1 yards on 43 receptions. Ozzie Newsome is no longer an all-pro tight end at age 32, but the Browns have so much confidence in him they didn't draft a possible replacement and there is no pretender on the roster. He did not score last year, but he caught 34 passes in the regular season and seven more in the two playoff games. Reggie Langhorne, who had a touchdown in each playoff game, is a dangerous extra receiver.

The offensive line is big and seasoned. Paul Farren will move back to left guard if Rickey Bolden has recovered from his broken ankle and is able to play left tackle. Cody Risien, the right tackle, made the Pro Bowl again. The

right guard is Dan Fike with Mike Baab at center. Larry Williams started eight games at left guard in the Bolden emergency. Gregg Raczky can play all the line positions.

The Browns' first three draft selections and seven of their first eight were defensive players. No. 1 was Clifford Charlton, the Florida linebacker who will be unleashed on enemy passers. Cleveland tied for 20th in the NFL in sacks. The third draftee was Van Waiters, another linebacker from Indiana. Waiters, like Charlton, had seven sacks as a senior. In between came Michael Dean Perry of Clemson, the "Refrigerator's" little brother. Michael is quicker, has more stamina than William, and is less likely to have a weight problem. He had 10 sacks as a senior.

The coming of Charlton is likely to allow Schottenheimer to switch Mike Junkin from the outside to inside linebacker. Junkin struggled at the start of his rookie year, then broke his wrist early in the season. Cleveland has an embarrassment of linebacking riches now. Clay Matthews went to the Pro Bowl and Eddie Johnson was an alternate. Mike Johnson led the team in tackles. Lucious Sanford, the ex-Bill, will have to battle just to stay on the roster.

Carl Hairston led the Browns in sacks with eight last year, but he'll be 36 by the time the next playoffs start, so Perry's development will have to be accelerated. Nose tackle Bob Golic was voted to the Pro Bowl, but he missed both playoff games with an arm injury. Al Baker, the ex-Cardinal, had his moments as a pass-rush specialist. Sam Clancy and Reggie Camp battle for left end. Dave Puzzuoli is a tough inside man who had five sacks.

The defense revolves around the secondary. "This group is the pulse of the team," said Schottenheimer. "Some say they are brash, others admire the unity. The only thing I know is that they perform their assignments with a relentlessness that is exactly what we want." The Browns feel that Frank Minnifield and Hanford Dixon are the best cornerbacks in the NFL. They started in the Pro Bowl, they made most of the all-pro teams, and the NFL Alumni named Dixon their defensive back of the year. Strong safety Felix Wright won a starting job midway in the season and tied for the team lead with Minnifield by intercepting four passes. He led the secondary with 67 tackles. The Browns mysteriously waived starting free

safety Ray Ellis, just as he had been waived previously by Philadelphia. Chris Rockins could reclaim the job he had in 1986. Al Gross is the backup strong safety. He started five games last year. There is further depth with Mark Harper and Stephen Braggs, plus Cleveland drafted four defensive backs.

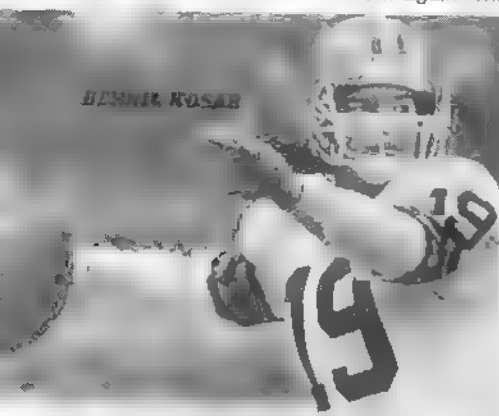
Gerald "The Ice Cube" McNeil returned punts for an average of 11.4 yards in both the regular season and the playoffs, then was picked for the Pro Bowl. Matt Bahr returned from injury to reclaim the place-kicking job. The punting, a mishmash in 1987, may have been sorted out when Lee Johnson averaged 44.3 yards on three playoff punts.

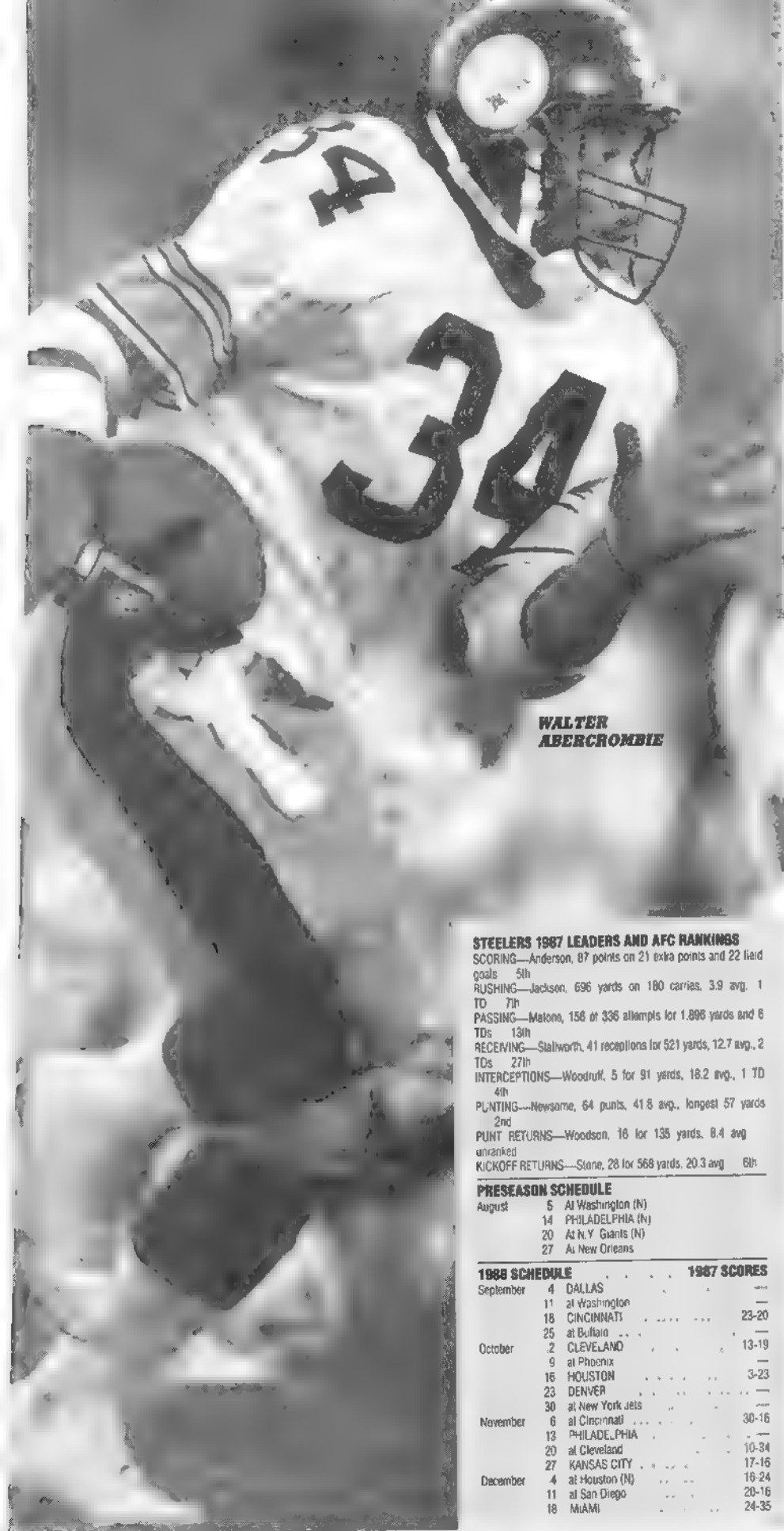
BROWNS 1988 ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
61	Baob, Mike	C	6-4	270	29	Texas
9	Bahr, Matt	K	5-10	175	32	Penn State
60	Baker, Al	DE	6-6	270	32	Colorado St.
43	Baker, Tony	RB	5-10	175	24	East Carolina
39	Bellinger, Rodney	CB	5-8	189	26	Miami
77	Bolden, Rickey	OT	6-6	280	27	SMU
36	Braggs, Stephen	DB	5-9	173	23	Texas
86	Brennan, Brian	WR	5-9	178	26	Boston College
97	Bullett, Steve	LB	6-2	228	23	Texas A&M
44	Byner, Ernest	RB	5-10	215	26	East Carolina
96	Camp, Reggie	DE	6-4	280	27	California
91	Clancy, Sam	DE	6-7	260	30	Pittsburgh
47	Crawford, Mike	RB	5-10	215	24	Arizona St.
18	Danielson, Gary	CB	6-2	196	37	Purdue
29	Dixon, Hanford	CB	5-11	186	30	Southern Miss.
74	Farren, Paul	OL	6-5	280	28	Boston U.
69	Fike, Dan	G	6-7	260	27	Florida
28	Fonlelot, Herman	RB	6-0	206	25	LSU
79	Golic, Bob	NT	6-2	270	31	Notre Dame
56	Grayson, David	LB	6-2	229	24	Fresno State
53	Ginggs, Anthony	LB	6-3	230	28	Ohio State
27	Gross, Al	S	6-3	195	27	Arizona
78	Hairston, Carl	DE	6-4	260	36	Maryland E. Shore
65	Haley, Darryl	OL	6-4	265	27	Utah
23	Harper, Mark	CB	5-9	174	27	Alcorn State
38	Horn, Alvin	S	5-11	185	23	UNLV
8	Jaeger, Jeff	K	5-11	189	24	Washington
51	Johnson, Eddie	LB	6-1	225	29	Louisville
11	Johnson, Lee	P	6-2	198	27	BYU
50	Johnson, Mike	LB	6-1	228	26	Virginia Tech
95	Jones, Marion	DE	6-4	260	24	Central St.
54	Junkin, Mike	LB	6-3	238	24	Duke
19	Kosar, Bernie	QB	6-5	210	25	Miami
88	Langhorne, Reg	WR	6-2	195	25	Elizabeth City St.
25	Logan, Marc	RB	5-11	204	23	Kentucky
34	Mack, Kevin	FB	6-0	225	26	Clemson
42	Manoa, Tim	FB	6-1	227	24	Penn State
57	Matthews, Clay	LB	6-2	235	32	Southern Cal.
89	McNeil, Gerald	WR	5-7	147	26	Baylor
52	Miller, Nick	LB	6-2	238	25	Arkansas
31	Minnifield, Frank	CB	5-9	180	28	Louisville
62	Newsome, Ozzie	TE	6-2	232	32	Alabama
10	Paget, Mike	DB	6-2	206	28	Arizona St.
72	Puzzuoli, Dave	NT	6-3	260	27	Pittsburgh
73	Raczky, Gregg	T	6-6	290	23	Miami
37	Rockins, Chris	S	6-0	195	26	Oklahoma St.
99	Sims, Darryl	DE	6-3	282	27	Wisconsin
84	Slaughter, Webster	WR	6-0	170	24	San Diego St.
38	Swann, George	RB	5-10	205	24	Miami (OH)
81	Tennell, Derek	TE	6-5	245	24	JCUA
87	Tucker, Travis	TE	6-3	240	25	So. Conn. St.
6	Watson, Rennie	WR	6-0	174	24	Bethune-Cookman
85	Weathers, Clar	WR	5-8	170	26	Delaware St.
55	White, Bobby	LB	6-2	242	24	Penn State
70	Williams, Lamy	G	6-5	290	25	Notre Dame
64	Winters, Frank	C	6-3	290	24	Western Illinois
22	Wright, Felix	S	6-2	190	29	Duke
83	Young, Glen	WR	6-2	205	28	Mississippi St.

DRAFTED

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Charlton, Clifford	LB	6-2	232	Florida
2	Perry, Michael Dean	DT	6-1	271	Clemson
3	Waiters, Van	LB	6-3	230	Indiana
4	Blaylock, Anthony	DB	5-11	185	Winston-Salem St.
7	Gash, Thane	DB	5-11	205	East Tenn. St.
8	Bredin, J.J.	WR	5-10	156	Oregon
9	Copeland, Danny	DB	6-2	208	E. Kentucky
10	Washington, Brian	DB	6-1	220	Nebraska
11	Hawkins, Hendley	WR	5-9	183	Nebraska
12	Slayden, Steve	DB	6-1	185	Duke





**WALTER
ABERCROMBIE**

STEELERS 1987 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Anderson, 87 points on 21 extra points and 22 field goals 5th
RUSHING—Jackson, 696 yards on 180 carries, 3.9 avg. 1 TD 7th
PASSING—Malone, 156 of 336 attempts for 1,896 yards and 6 TDs 13th
RECEIVING—Stallworth, 41 receptions for 521 yards, 12.7 avg., 2 TDs 27th
INTERCEPTIONS—Woodruff, 5 for 91 yards, 18.2 avg., 1 TD 4th
PUNTING—Newsome, 64 punts, 41.8 avg., longest 57 yards 2nd
PUNT RETURNS—Woodson, 16 for 138 yards, 8.4 avg. unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Stone, 28 for 568 yards, 20.3 avg. 6th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 5 At Washington (N)
 14 PHILADELPHIA (N)
 20 At N.Y. Giants (N)
 27 At New Orleans

1988 SCHEDULE		1987 SCORES
September	4 DALLAS	—
	11 at Washington	—
	18 CINCINNATI	23-20
	25 at Buffalo	—
October	2 CLEVELAND	13-19
	9 at Phoenix	—
	16 HOUSTON	3-23
	23 DENVER	—
	30 at New York Jets	—
November	6 at Cincinnati	30-16
	13 PHILADELPHIA	—
	20 at Cleveland	10-34
	27 KANSAS CITY	17-16
December	4 at Houston (N)	16-24
	11 at San Diego	20-16
	18 MIAMI	24-35

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

The Steelers strike out in a new direction this season, and why not? Their playoff shot came down to the last two games of 1987. They lost to Houston, 24-16, and then to Cleveland, 19-13. With better quarterbacking they might have won both games. So they traded Mark Malone, the unpopular incumbent, to San Diego. Then they traded with Kansas City for Todd Blackledge and threw the job wide open. Blackledge and young Bobby Brister will fight it out.

It won't take much to improve upon what Pittsburgh passers did a year ago—last in the NFL in completion percentage and yardage, an average of just 5.7 yards a pass and 12.4 yards per completion. Brister attempted just a dozen passes, completing only four with three interceptions. Blackledge was a failure in Kansas City despite receiving many chances, but his future was decided more than a year ago when his mentor, John Mackovic, was fired as the Chiefs' head coach. He could be a different player with this fresh start.

No matter the identity of the quarterback, the Steelers are likely to maintain their conservative offense. There are no exceptional runners, just reliable plodders like Walter Abercrombie, Earnest Jackson, and Frank Pollard. It's still a fullback-oriented running game, similar to the days of Franco Harris. Jackson and Pollard, the two fullbacks, combined for more than 1,200 yards. Abercrombie had fewer carries than either of them and finished with 459 yards. With the career of Rich Erenberg, the pass-receiving back, in question following knee surgery, the Steelers used a low-round draft choice to select Holy Cross hero Gordie Lockbaum as a candidate for that role. The closest thing to a breakaway back is Dwight Stone, who averaged 7.8 yards per carry on 17 rushes as a rookie free agent.

The best thing that could happen to the new quarterback is for wide receiver Louis Lipps to regain his health. Lipps, who broke in as a Pro Bowl receiver, suffered through his second straight injury-filled season. He caught only 11 passes. The leading receiver in 1987, John Stallworth, retired. Calvin Sweeney also is gone. A likely new starter is Weegie Thompson, who has not caught more than 17 passes in any of his four NFL seasons. The tight ends



aren't much help to the passing game. The three-man crew combined for a mere 16 catches. In the draft, coach Chuck Noll passed up the best of a good group of receivers to select a pass rusher and two offensive linemen. Look for many Steeler passes to be aimed at running backs. Abercrombie finished second on the team with 24 receptions.

The offense will survive or perish through the running game. In the team's eight victories in 1987, the Steelers averaged 169 yards rushing. In the seven losses they averaged 113 yards. One of the assets is the knack of their ball carriers to hang on to the ball. Pittsburgh led the league with just eight fumbles.

The Steelers' offensive line cannot be judged by the standards of the massive lines that are becoming popular around the NFL. The Pittsburgh running game depends upon trapping and motion in the line, so the emphasis is on smaller, more mobile blockers. The current line is interesting in that it still functions smoothly but is about a year, possibly less away from transition. The linemen are center Mike Webster, who went to his ninth Pro Bowl in his 14th season, and tackle Tunch Ilkin, who didn't allow a single sack in 1987. Terry Long and Craig Wolfley are strong compact guards. Buddy Aydelette, the USFL star, was claimed by the Steelers from Minnesota just before last season and ended up winning the left-tackle job at age 31. Pittsburgh's second and third draftees were offensive linemen, Dermontti Dawson of Kentucky and Chuck Lanza of Notre Dame. Dawson is a versatile lineman who can play guard or center. Lanza is a tough overachiever who might succeed

Webster in time. The Steelers, historically, like linemen who have experience at center. Ilkin came to them as a center. The lineman with the most potential is John Rienstra, who was the No. 1 draftee two years ago. Rienstra started a couple of games at guard last year and he may have a future at tackle, but he was discouraged to the point of asking Noll to switch him to defense last spring.

The Steelers improved from a 6-10 record in 1986 to last year's 8-7 mostly on the basis of an improved defense. Seven of the first eight draft choices a year ago were defensive players and most of them had some sort of impact, especially the backs. One of the year's de-



EARNEST JACKSON

ceptive statistics was Pittsburgh's last-place ranking in AFC pass defense. The Steelers gave up a lot of yards, but they led the league in touchdowns with five on interceptions and two on fumble returns. They had 44 takeaways, averaging four a game in each of the eight victories. The Steelers were intimidating again and they probably will get better defensively this season.

Free safety Thomas Everett and right corner Delton Hall made the all-rookie team. Both are quick, physical players in the old Steeler style. Ron Woodson, the No. 1 draftee, held out until well into the season and was used mostly as a nickel back. He could be a starting corner this year if he tends to business. Dwayne Woodruff, the most experienced back, was the starting left corner. Since Donnie Shell retired, strong safety will be a battle among Cornell Gowdy, Larry Griffin and Cameron Riley.

Pittsburgh finished second in defense against the run in the AFC. The linebacking had a lot to do with that. Outside linebacker Mike Merrweather was voted the team's most valuable player, an award which went to the other outside backer, Bryan Hinkle, the year before. David Little had his best season and emerged as a leader on the inside. Robin Cole, at 32, shared playing time with Hardy Nickerson and Gregg Carr. Nickerson will contend for a starting job in his second pro season. Carr, who had three sacks in the last three games, earned more playing time either on the inside or outside.

Pittsburgh's real need is for a dominant, pass-rushing lineman. The No. 1 draft choice was Aaron Jones, who fulfilled his enormous potential late in his senior season at Eastern Kentucky. "He was the one I wanted," said

defensive line coach Joe Greene. The Steelers had only 26 sacks. Merrweather, a skilled blitzing, was the leader with 5½. Ends Keith Gary and Keith Willis had just four and three. With Gary Dunn, who plays on the inside near the end at age 35, Gerald Williams has an opportunity to move into the starting lineup. Edmund Nelson had a disappointing year. Since most of the linemen are versatile, Greene can move some veterans around if Jones, as hoped, wins a starting job at end.

Not only did Gary Anderson kick 22 of 27 field goals, but his 10-of-14 record from beyond the 40 was an invaluable asset. Harry Newsome is an adequate punter.

STEELERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
34	Abercrombie, Walt	RB	6-0	210	29	Baylor
81	Alston, Lynell	WR	6-1	205	24	Southern Miss.
1	Anderson, Gary	PK	5-11	170	29	Syracuse
72	Aydelette, Buddy	OL	6-4	282	32	Alabama
66	Behning, Mark	OT	6-5	277	27	Nebraska
14	Blackledge, Todd	QB	6-3	219	27	Penn State
60	Blankenship, Brian	OL	6-1	281	25	Nebraska
15	Bono, Steve	QB	6-4	215	26	UCLA
65	Boyle, Jim	OT	6-5	270	26	Tulane
6	Brister, Bobby	QB	6-3	200	26	NE Louisiana
10	Bruno, John	P	6-2	190	24	Penn State
91	Carr, Gregg	LB	6-2	224	26	Auburn
44	Carter, Rodney	RB	6-0	212	24	Purdue
88	Clintonscales, Joey	WR	6-0	204	24	Tennessee
58	Cole, Robin	LB	5-2	225	33	New Mexico
67	Dunn, Gary	NT	6-3	278	35	Miami
24	Erenberg, Rich	RB	5-10	205	26	Colgate
27	Everett, Thomas	DB	5-9	170	24	Baylor
68	Freeman, Lorenzo	DL	6-5	270	24	Pittsburgh
92	Gary, Keith	DE	6-3	260	29	Oklahoma
86	Gosard, Preston	TE	6-4	242	26	Alabama
29	Gowdy, Cornell	CB	6-1	187	25	Morgan State
22	Griffin, Larry	CB	6-0	199	25	North Carolina
35	Hall, Delton	CB	6-1	205	23	Clemson
96	Hendon, Anthony	LB	6-1	234	25	Troy State
53	Hinkle, Bryan	LB	6-2	215	29	Oregon
33	Hoge, Merrill	RB	6-2	212	23	Idaho State
62	Ilkin, Tunch	OT	6-3	265	31	Indiana State
43	Jackson, Earnest	RB	5-9	219	29	Texas A&M
78	Johnson, Tim	DL	6-3	260	23	Penn State
84	Lee, Danzell	TE	6-2	229	25	Jamar
83	Lups, Louis	WR	5-10	190	26	Southern Miss
50	Little, David	LB	6-1	230	29	Florida
95	Lloyd, Greg	LB	6-2	227	23	Fort Valley St.
89	Lockett, Charles	WR	6-0	179	23	Long Beach St.
74	Long, Terry	G	5-11	275	29	East Carolina
	Lucas, Jeff	OT	6-7	288	24	West Virginia
57	Merrweather, Mike	LB	6-2	221	28	Pacific
	Milner, Michael	DT	6-3	275	23	North Texas St.
64	Nelson, Edmund	DL	6-3	266	28	Auburn
18	Newsome, Harry	P	6-0	189	25	Wake Forest
54	Nickerson, Hardy	LB	6-2	224	23	California
30	Pollard, Frank	RB	5-10	230	31	Baylor
76	Quirk, Jerry	OL	6-5	273	25	Wichita State
79	Rienstra, John	G	6-5	269	25	Temple
47	Riley, Cameron	DB	6-1	195	24	Missouri
28	Sanchez, Lupe	DB	5-10	195	27	UCLA
20	Stone, Dwight	RB	6-0	188	24	Middle Tenn. St.
90	Stowe, Tyrone	LB	6-1	232	23	Rutgers
87	Thompson, Hoegle	WR	6-6	210	27	Florida State
52	Webster, Mike	C	6-2	254	36	Wisconsin
98	Williams, Gerald	DL	6-3	270	25	Auburn
93	Willis, Keith	DE	6-1	260	29	Northeastern
73	Wolfley, Craig	OL	6-1	272	30	Syracuse
49	Woodruff, Dwayne	CB	6-0	198	31	Louisville
26	Woodson, Rod	DB	6-0	202	23	Purdue
80	Young, Theo	TE	6-2	237	23	Arkansas

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Jones, Aaron	DE	6-4	255	Eastern Kentucky
2	Dawson, Dermontti	G	6-2	265	Kentucky
3	Lanza, Chuck	C	6-2	270	Notre Dame
5	Jordan, Darin	LB	6-1	245	Northeastern
5	Reese, Jerry	NT	6-1	258	Kentucky
6	Williams, Warren	RB	6-0	202	Miami
7	Zeno, Marc	WR	6-2	207	Tulane
8	Nichols, Mark	NT	6-2	252	Michigan State
8	Hinnant, Mike	TE	6-3	250	Temple
9	Lockbaum, Gordon	RB	6-10	195	Holy Cross
10	Jackson, John	OT	6-5	270	Eastern Kentucky
11	Dawson, Bobby	DB	5-10	208	Illinois
12	Earle, James	LB	6-5	215	Clemson



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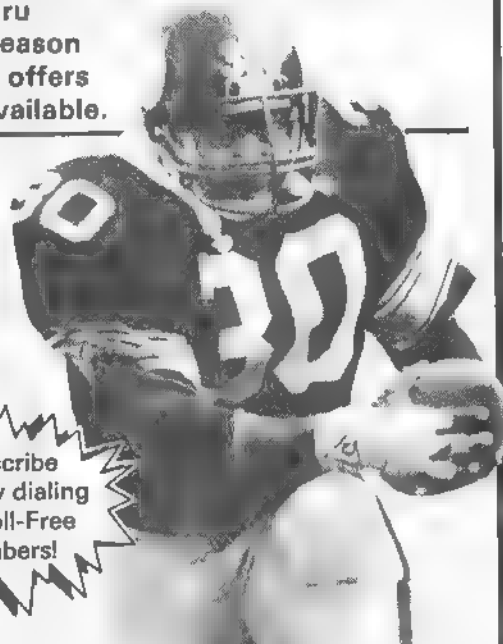
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CINCINNATI BENGALS

This is it for Sam Wyche. His probation as coach isn't going to be extended beyond this season if he doesn't do something impressive with the Bengals. The Browns, father Paul and son Mike, have been patient beyond most expectations. Wyche is starting to hedge. You can tell from his annual preseason statement: "The team is certainly not one of the upper echelon clubs as evidenced by the Pro Bowl balloting for the 1987 season . . . Our division is tough . . . We understand that we are not a powerhouse."

No one says that the Bengals are a star-taden team, but the facts are that even the paltry four victories last year were unimpressive. Two were over teams even more woeful than Cincinnati, Atlanta and Kansas City. Another came in a strike game. And the first was in the opener against Indianapolis, before the Colts traded for Eric Dickerson. Still, there is some talent and firepower on this team that as recently as two years ago was considered among the NFL's most promising.

Wyche's first task is to repair the psyche of quarterback Boomer Esiason, from whom he became estranged during the 1987 season. Esiason became emotionally involved in the strike, as the team's player representative, to the point where it distracted from his play. He has resigned as player rep. Esiason had five games in which he passed for more than 300 yards, one a 409-yard game against Pittsburgh's tough defense. He accumulated 3,321 yards passing and connected for 16 touchdowns. But he was intercepted 19 times and his efficiency rating, 73.1, was ranked above only Dan Fouts of San Diego and Mark Malone of Pittsburgh. Fouts retired and Malone was traded to San Diego.

Esiason still collaborates with receivers of quality. Eddie Brown caught 44 passes for 608 yards. There is some concern that Chris Collinsworth, Esiason's sidekick, may be slipping. He caught just 31 passes and didn't score. But young Tim McGee is making his move. He led the team with a 17.7-yard average on 23 catches. Rodney Holman, the tight end, caught 28 passes.

Aside from a return to form by Esiason, what the Bengals need most is a healthy James Brooks. The little halfback, a Pro Bowler the previous season, was limited to 94 carries and averaged just 3.1 yards in 1987. Without Brooks, Cincinnati has to rely on a lot of backs with journeyman tools such as plodding fullback Larry Kinnebrew, power back Bill Johnson, and versatile Stanford Jennings. Icky Woods, a 230-pound fullback who led the nation with 1,695 yards for Nevada-Las Vegas, was the second draft choice.

Wyche hints that his huge offensive line is overrated, but around the NFL there is a lot of respect for tackle Anthony Muñoz, guard Max Montoya, and center Dave Rimington. Muñoz was in the Pro Bowl, as usual. Guard Bruce Reimers and tackle Joe Walter fill out the line with veterans such as Brian Blados and Bruce Kozerski providing depth. The Bengals have one of the top offensive line coaches in Jim McNally. Esiason is protected fairly well, except against the better pass-rush teams.

The Bengals' defensive line is in a state of change. Jim Skow became a starter at right end last year and contributed 4½ sacks to a pass rush that had 40 sacks in all. Skow is



**EMANUEL
KING**

considered a corner around the league. Last year's No. 1 pick, Jason Buck, should be ready to advance at the other end where Eddie Edwards has played for 11 seasons. Edwards had four sacks in '87, and it may be that he would still be effective in spot situations. The nose tackle, overachiever Tim Krumrie led the team with 88 tackles and started in the Pro Bowl. The draft brought West Virginia's David Grant.

Reggie Williams begins his 13th season as a Bengal linebacker and he showed few signs of slowing down. He was second on the team with 75 tackles and led with seven sacks. He still has the quickness to rank as one of the better blitzers. Outside backer Emanuel King was Cincinnati's top draft pick in '85 and inside backer Joe Kelly was the top pick in '86. Both

should be about to make their move toward stardom. Carl Zander is the other inside starter, with Kiki DeAyala and Leon White in specialty roles. Add Maryland draftee Kevin Walker to the unit. Wyche said "Dick Selcer [the linebacker coach] has put this group together like a fine machine, and '88 needs to be their year." The linebackers and Krumrie, in fact, are mostly responsible for the Bengals' good record against the run. The opposition averaged 109.4 yards a game and 3.7 yards a carry.

On the other hand, it was far easier to beat Cincinnati through the air. The Bengals gave up 24 touchdown passes. That is one reason

for third in tackles, with 70. had three sacks and four interceptions. Free safety Robert Jackson tied Fulcher for the interception lead and also had 70 tackles.

Considering they won only four games, the Bengals had effective special teams. Scott Fulhage averaged 41.7 yards as a rookie punter. Jim Breech kicked 24 field goals in 30 tries and was a more effective kickoff man when the Bengals changed their scheme to emphasize placement rather than distance. Mike Martin, one of the better punt returners in the NFL, averaged 9.9 yards on 28 returns.

This may not be a powerhouse, but it is a better team than its last won-lost record.



BENGALS 1987 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Breech, 97 points on 25 extra points and 24 field goals, 1st.
RUSHING—Kinnebrew, 570 yards on 145 carries, 3.9 avg., 8 TDs, 11th.
PASSING—Esiason, 240 of 440 attempts for 3,321 yards and 16 TDs, 11th.
RECEIVING—Brown, 44 receptions for 606 yards, 13.6 avg., 3 TDs, 10th.
INTERCEPTIONS—Jackson, 3 for 49 yards, 16.3 avg., 20th; Fulcher, 3 for 30 yards, 10.0 avg., 26th.
PUNTING—Fulhage, 52 punts, 41.7 avg., longest 58 yards, 3rd.
PUNT RETURNS—Martin, 28 for 277 yards, 9.9 avg., 5th.
KICKOFF RETURNS—Bussey, 21 for 406 yards, 19.3 avg., 10th.

PRO BOWL SELECTIONS

July 30 L.A. Rams (Hall of Fame Game at Canton, OH)
 August 6 At Kansas City (N)
 13 At Buffalo (N)
 20 DETROIT (N)
 26 At New England (N)

1987 SCORES

September	4 PHOENIX	—
	11 At Philadelphia	20-23
	18 At Pittsburgh	0-34
	25 CLEVELAND	—
October	2 At Los Angeles Raiders	20-27
	9 NEW YORK JETS	—
	16 At New England	29-31
	23 HOUSTON	24-38
	30 At Cleveland	16-30
November	6 PITTSBURGH	(OT) 30-27
	13 At Kansas City	—
	20 At Dallas	—
	27 BUFFALO	9-10
December	4 SAN DIEGO	17-21
	11 At Houston	—
	17 WASHINGTON	—



why Ricky Dixon of Oklahoma was the first draft choice. He should step in immediately as a starting cornerback. Dixon played free safety for the Sooners, but in their system the man operating at that position has the toughest coverage responsibility. He should convert to the pro corner with ease. The scouts say he closes on the ball quicker than any defensive back they have seen coming out of college in several years. He also plays the run tough and has exceptional hands. Left corner Lewis Billups is at least adequate. The best of the veterans is strong safety David Fulcher, who tied

BENGALS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
61	Aronson, Doug	G	6-3	290	24	San Diego St.
35	Barber, Chris	S	6-0	187	24	N.C. A&T
53	Barber, Leo	LB	6-2	227	29	New Mexico St.
26	Bel, Leonard	S	5-11	201	24	Indiana
24	Bellows, Lewis	CB	5-11	190	25	North Alabama
74	Blados, Brian	G	6-5	235	26	North Carolina
56	Brady, Ed	LB	6-2	235	26	Illinois
3	Breech, Jim	K	5-6	161	32	California
21	Brooks, James	RB	5-10	182	30	Arizona
81	Brown, Eddie	WR	6-0	185	26	Miami
99	Buck, Jason	DE	6-5	264	25	Brigham Young
27	Bussey, Barney	S	6-0	195	26	South Carolina
80	Collinsworth, Chris	WR	6-5	192	24	Florida
93	DeAyala, Kiki	LB	6-1	225	28	Texas
67	Douglas, David	T	6-4	280	25	Tennessee
73	Edwards, Eddie	DE	6-5	256	34	Miami
7	Egston, Boomer	QB	6-4	220	27	Maryland
33	Fulcher, David	S	6-3	228	24	Arizona State
7	Fulhage, Scott	P	5-11	191	27	Kansas State
71	Hammerstein, Mike	DE	6-4	270	25	Michigan
89	Hillary, Ira	WR	5-11	180	26	South Carolina
82	Holman, Rodney	TE	6-3	238	28	Tulane
20	Horton, Ray	CB	5-11	190	28	Washington
92	Inglis, Tom	LB	6-3	232	24	Toledo
37	Jackson, Robert	S	5-10	186	30	Central Michigan
36	Jennings, Stanford	RB	6-1	205	26	Furman
30	Johnson, Bill	RB	6-2	230	28	Arkansas St.
84	Kattus, Eric	TE	6-5	235	25	Michigan
58	Kelly, Joe	LB	6-2	227	24	Washington
90	King, Emanuel	LB	6-4	251	25	Alabama
28	Kinnebrew, Larry	RB	6-1	258	29	Tennessee St.
64	Kozerski, Bruce	G	6-4	275	26	Holy Cross
69	Krumrie, Tim	NT	6-2	262	26	Wys. Madison
52	Manos, Sam	C	6-3	265	25	Marshall
88	Martin, Mike	WR	5-10	186	28	Illinois
72	McClendon, Skip	DE	6-6	270	24	Arizona State
85	McGee, Tim	WR	5-10	175	24	Tennessee
47	Medan, Greg	WR	6-0	191	25	Bowling Green
65	Montoya, Max	G	6-5	275	32	J.C. A
78	Munoz, Anthony	T	6-6	278	30	USC
12	Norsett, Mike	QB	6-2	200	24	Kansas
75	Reimers, Bruce	T	6-7	280	28	Iowa State
79	Renke, Jeff	DE	6-4	270	26	Marshall St.
46	Rice, Dan	RB	6-1	241	25	Michigan
87	Riggs, Jim	TE	6-5	245	25	Clemson
50	Remington, Dave	C	6-3	288	26	Nebraska
15	Schoner, Turk	QB	6-1	196	31	Stanford
70	Skow, Jim	DE	6-3	250	25	Nebraska
25	Smith, Darryl	CB	5-9	185	25	North Alabama
62	Thalcher, Chris	OL	6-4	275	24	Lafayette
22	Thomas, Eric	CB	5-11	175	24	Tulane
63	Walter, Joe	T	6-6	290	25	Texas Tech
51	White, Leon	LB	6-2	236	25	Brigham Young
41	Wilcox, Solomon	CB	5-11	180	24	Colorado
57	Williams, Reggie	LB	6-0	228	34	Dartmouth
49	Wright, Dana	RB	6-1	219	25	Findlay College
91	Zander, Carl	LB	6-2	235	25	Tennessee

DRAFT PICKS

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Dixon, Ricky	S	5-10	184	Oklahoma
2	Woods, Ebert	FB	5-11	211	Nevada-Las Vegas
3	Walker, Kevin	LB	6-2	230	Maryland
4	Grant, David	DT	6-3	270	West Virginia
5	Webster, Herb	OT	6-7	300	Iowa
6	Jellison, Paul	OG	6-4	292	Texas
7	Romer, Richard	LB	6-4	220	Union (NY)
8	Mazey, Curtis	NT	6-4	288	Grambling
9	Wells, Brandy	DB	5-11	195	More Dame
10	Dilahunt, Ellis	QB	5-10	200	East Carolina
11	Hickert, Paul	PK	6-3	195	Murray State
12	Parker, Carl	WR	6-2	201	Vanderbilt

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AFC Central

WARREN MOON

OILERS 1987 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Zendejas, 92 points on 32 extra points and 20 field goals 3rd
 RUSHING—Rozier, 957 yards on 229 carries, 4.2 avg., 3 TDs 3rd
 PASSING—Moon, 184 of 368 attempts for 2,806 yards and 21 TDs 10th
 RECEIVING—Givins, 53 receptions for 933 yards, 17.6 avg., 6 TDs 7th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Bostic, 6 for minus 14 yards, -2.3 avg 3rd
 PUNTING—Gossell, 44 punts, 40.4 avg., longest 55 yards 7th
 PUNT RETURNS—Johnson, 24 for 196 yards, 8.2 avg., 8th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Duncan, 28 for 546 yards, 19.5 avg 6th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	4	at BUFFALO (N)
	13	New England (at Memphis, TN, N)
	20	at L.A. Rams (N)
	27	at Dallas (N)

1988 SCHEDULE

		1987 SCORES
September	4	at Indianapolis
	11	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS
	18	at New York Jets
	25	NEW ENGLAND
October	2	at Philadelphia
	9	KANSAS CITY
	16	at Pittsburgh
	23	at Cincinnati
	30	WASHINGTON (N)
November	7	CLEVELAND (N)
	13	at Seattle
	20	PHOENIX
	24	at Dallas
December	4	PITTSBURGH (N)
	11	CINCINNATI
	18	at Cleveland

HOUSTON OILERS

On the surface, the Oilers seem to be a team on the ascent. They made the playoffs last year for the first time since 1980. They have an exciting offense. The defense functions at times like a savage corporation.

There are some questions about the Oilers. For instance, was it poise and maturity that allowed them to rescue so many victories from impending defeat, or was it luck? Did Warren Moon have a career season, one that may not be repeated again, or has he arrived as a top NFL quarterback at age 32? Were the strike-team victories over Denver and Cleveland their true pass to the playoffs?

Another puzzling question arose during the draft. Obviously the Oilers are in need of help to buttress their mediocre pass rush. Florida linebacker Clifford Charlton, a fierce blitzer, remained on the board when their turn arrived in the first round. But the Oilers vacillated, allowing the drafting time to expire. That gave Cleveland, Houston's rival in the AFC Central, the chance to move quickly to claim Charlton and mend their own pass rush. The Oilers had traded away their valuable first-round pick, the sixth in the entire draft, to the Los Angeles Raiders for defensive end Sean Jones. The Raiders were convinced that Jones's 16½ sacks in 1986 were a one-year rumble. Al Davis seldom gets outfoxed. (The Raiders, incidentally, used the selection to acquire Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown.)

Then Houston started NFL watchers by drafting Lorenzo White, Michigan State's All-America running back. The Oilers already have Mike Rozier, who realized his Heisman Trophy potential by rushing for 957 yards, and Alonzo Highsmith, the rookie fullback whose running was the feature of the Oilers' two playoff games. The mystery is whether Highsmith's tender knee is a more serious problem than has been reported, or whether Rozier is having trouble handling success.

There was something else unsettling for a playoff team. Head coach Jerry Glanville fired three of his assistants, including the highly respected defensive backfield coach, Tom Bettis, after the season. None of the replacements has pro coaching experience.

"I think our offense definitely is on the upswing," said Glanville. "We'll get even better this season because again there is no change in philosophy or scheme of attack."

Moon, whose job was in jeopardy at the start of 1987, seemed to become more consistent under the tutelage of June Jones, his fourth quarterback coach in as many years as an Oiler. He passed for 21 touchdowns and 2,896 yards. But his completion average was a mere 50 percent and he was intercepted 18 times. In his last 29 games Moon has suffered 44 interceptions.

His pass receivers can't be blamed. They are first-rate and this year there may be more of them, as well as an overall improvement. Drew Hill averaged 20.2 yards on his 49 catches while Ernest Givins averaged 17.6 on his 53. Each caught six touchdown passes. Curtis Duncan, a low-round draft choice, outperformed first-rounder Haywood Jeffries. Duncan caught five touchdown passes in limited playing time. Willie Drewrey outplayed both of them in the playoffs. Jeffries is expected to make a late adjustment to pro ball this season.

If Highsmith and Rozier are O.K., White may have difficulty getting a satisfactory number of carries. He seems a bigger threat to Allen Pinkett, the ex-Notre Dame star, who has been the third back. The Oilers finished in the middle of the pack in rushing, but they probably could be more effective if they elected to play more conservatively.

Glanville credits the new offensive line coach, Kim Helton, for improving the blocking. The talent is there. Mike Munchak was a Pro Bowl guard again. Bruce Matthews had one of his best seasons at the other guard. Tackle Bruce Davis, acquired from the Raiders, helped the pass protection a lot and Dean Steinkuhler is a load on the other side. Jay Pennison, the center, graded well.

The tight end, Jamie Williams, is more of a blocker, although he caught three touchdown passes. The Oilers drafted a sleeper, Chris Vernulst, who set a Chico State record with 141 career receptions. If this small-college

gem can be polished, he could be the deep-threat tight end who will give more dimension to the offense.

Ray Childress is an outstanding defensive end against the rush, but his pass-rush work is fairly spotty, although he led the Oilers in sacks with six. The other starter, Richard Byrd, had only one sack. That's why the Oilers made the deal with the Raiders for Jones. It will be interesting to see if Jones functions as well with Houston as he did in the company of Howie Long, Bill Pickel, and the other Raiders. The nose tackles, Doug Jones and ex-Packer bad boy Charles Martin, are tough guys but their performances are inconsistent.

The weakest part of the Houston defense is the linebacking, which is average. Al Smith played above expectations as a rookie last year, but the Oilers got nothing out of their No. 2 pick, Walter Johnson, who had trouble making the move from small-college football to the NFL. Johnny Meads was an effective blitzer from the outside and Robert Lyles made a number of big plays. John Grimsley, who pairs with Smith inside, is ordinary.

The best of the defensive backs is Keith Bostic, who was voted to the Pro Bowl, but Jeff Donaldson, who replaced the injured Bo Eason at free safety, had more tackles than anyone except Smith and Grimsley. Donaldson led the Oilers in tackles in the two playoff games. Glanville calls them "the two best

safeties in football." Bostic had six interceptions and Donaldson four. Eason will help somewhere. Steve Brown is solid at one corner and the Oilers drafted Quentin Jones of Pitt in the second round. He could start right away. Patrick Allen is best known for the illegal hit that cost him a \$5,000 fine last year.

Tony Zendejas won the wild-card game with an overtime field goal. He was 20-for-26 during the regular season and an impressive 9-for-13 from the 40 or beyond. Michigan State's Greg Montgomery was drafted in the third round, the punting job is his to lose.

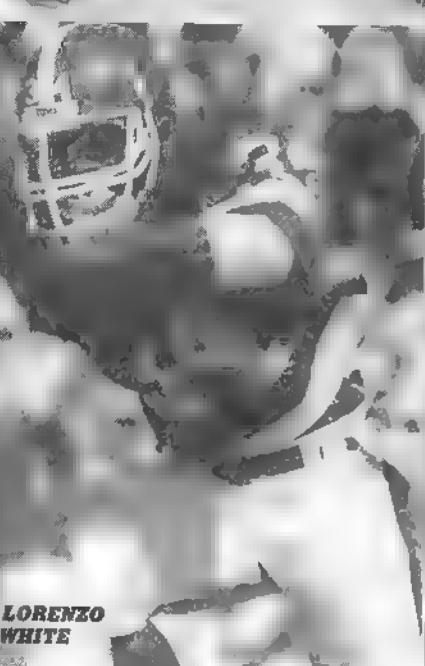
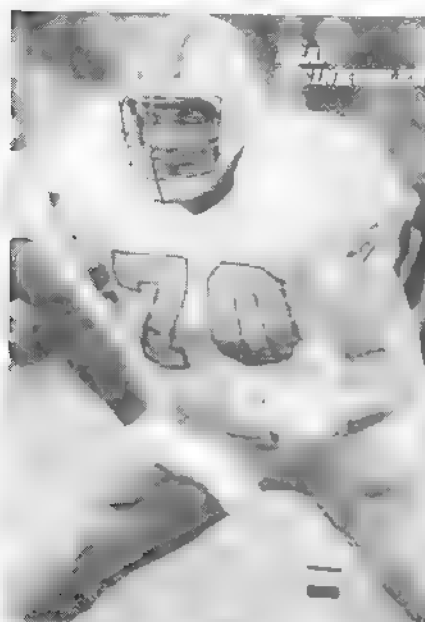
The schedule will test the Oilers in the stretch run. They play in Dallas on Thanksgiving, then meet each of their AFC Central rivals on consecutive Sundays in December.

HOUSTON OILERS ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
29	Allen, Patrick	CB	5-10	180	27	Utah State
97	Banks, Robert	DE	6-5	254	25	Notre Dame
36	Birdsong, Craig	S	6-2	217	24	North Texas St.
25	Bostic, Keith	S	6-1	223	27	Michigan
24	Brown, Steve	CB	5-11	187	28	Oregon
38	Bryant, Domingo	S	6-4	175	25	Texas A&M
71	Byrd, Richard	DE	6-4	265	26	S. Mississippi
14	Carlson, Cody	QB	6-3	203	25	Baylor
90	Caston, Toby	LB	6-1	235	23	LSU
79	Childress, Ray	DE	6-6	276	26	Texas A&M
98	Cooks, Rayford	DE	6-3	245	26	North Texas St.
77	Davis, Bruce	T	6-6	280	32	UCLA
73	Davis, John	OL	6-4	304	23	Georgia Tech
31	Donaldson, Jeff	S	6-0	194	26	Colorado
82	Drewey, Willie	WR	5-7	164	25	West Virginia
80	Duncan, Curtis	WR	5-11	184	23	Northwestern
58	Dusabek, Mark	LB	6-3	232	24	Minnesota
21	Eason, Bo	S	6-2	205	27	Cal-Davis
51	Fairs, Eric	LB	6-3	238	24	Memphis St.
95	Fuller, William	DE	6-3	260	26	North Carolina
81	Givens, Ernest	WR	5-9	172	24	Louisville
8	Gosselt, Jeff	P	6-2	200	31	Eastern Illinois
59	Grimsley, John	LB	6-2	236	26	Kentucky
83	Harris, Leonard	WR	5-8	165	28	Texas Tech
32	Highsmith, Lorenzo	FB	6-1	235	23	Miami
85	Hill, Drew	WR	5-9	170	32	Georgia Tech
49	James, Arnie	TE	6-4	238	24	Delta State
84	Jeffries, Haywood	WR	6-2	198	24	N.C. State
22	Johnson, Kenny	S	5-10	175	30	Mississippi St.
23	Johnson, Richard	CB	6-1	190	25	Wisconsin
57	Johnson, Walter	LB	6-0	241	25	Louisiana Tech
	Jones, Sean	DE	6-7	265	26	Northeastern
93	Lyles, Robert	LB	6-1	223	27	TCU
78	Maggs, Don	OL	6-5	277	27	Tulane
94	Marlin, Charles	NT	6-4	280	29	Lewington
74	Matthews, Bruce	OL	6-5	280	27	Southern Cal.
26	McMillan, Audrey	CB	6-0	190	26	Houston
1	Meads, Johnny	LB	6-2	230	27	Nicholls St.
1	Moon, Warren	QB	6-3	210	32	Washington
63	Munchak, Mike	G	6-3	280	28	Penn. State
89	Parks, Jeff	TE	6-4	240	24	Auburn
10	Pease, Brent	QB	6-2	200	24	Montana
52	Pennison, Jay	C	6-1	275	27	Nicholls St.
20	Pinkett, Allen	RB	5-9	185	24	Notre Dame
30	Rozier, Mike	RB	5-10	211	27	Nebraska
53	Seale, Eugene	LB	5-10	250	24	Lamar
54	Smith, Al	LB	6-1	230	24	Utah State
99	Smith, Doug	NT	6-5	282	28	Auburn
70	Steinkuhler, Dean	OL	6-3	278	27	Nebraska
33	Tiltman, Spencer	RB	5-11	206	24	Oklahoma
45	Valentine, Ira	RB	6-0	212	26	Marshall (TX)
35	Wallace, Ray	FB	6-0	220	26	Purdue
69	Williams, Doug	OL	6-5	288	26	Texas A&M
87	Williams, Jamie	TE	6-4	245	28	Nebraska
7	Zendejas, Tony	PK	5-8	165	28	Nevada-Reno

DRAFTED

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	White, Lorenzo	HB	5-10	213	Michigan State
2	Jones, Quenton	CB	5-11	188	Pittsburgh
3	Montgomery, Greg	TP	6-3	219	Michigan State
5	Dishman, Chris	DE	6-0	166	Purdue
5	Vernulst, Chris	TE	6-2	227	Chico State
6	Crain, Kurt	LB	6-1	228	Auburn
7	Eaton, Tracey	WR	6-2	190	Portland State
8	Vlaene, Dave	C	6-5	290	Miss-Duluth
9	Spradlin, David	LB	6-2	239	TCU
10	Johnson, Marco	WR	5-9	165	Hawaii
11	Franklin, Jethro	NT	6-2	255	Fresno State
12	Brantley, John	LB	6-2	226	Georgia



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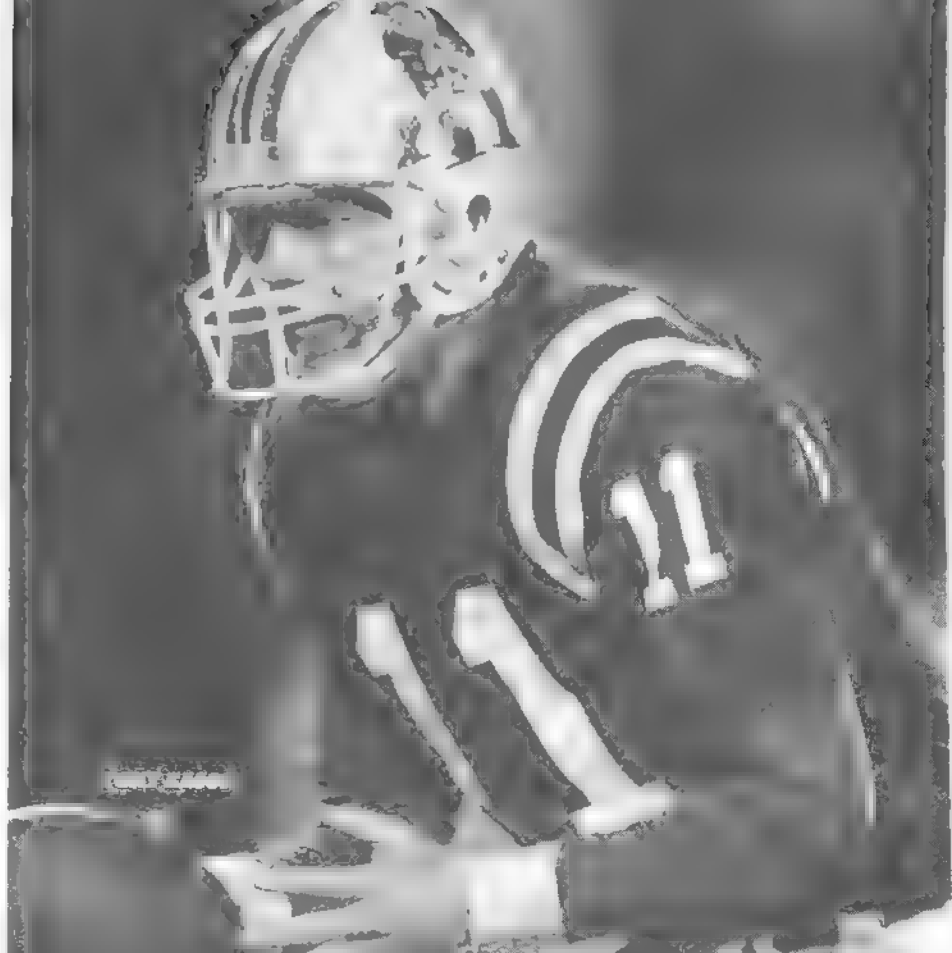
AFC east

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

So much happened to the Patriots between last season and this one that the organization was often mistaken for something between a comedy and a soap opera. There were the daily bulletins about whom the franchise would be sold to, about the Sullivan family's desperate efforts to stay involved in the NFL, about the possible loss of star linebacker Andre Tippett because of the team's financial shorts, about the probable trade of quarterback Tony Eason for the same reason, and about Irving Fryar's personal troubles. All of this distracts from one important fact: The Patriots are still a good football team.

The Indianapolis Colts won the division last year. The last time they faced the Patriots, late in November, they were shut out, 24-0. The Buffalo Bills, another AFC East team on the rise, were flying when they played the Pats in Buffalo on the next to last Sunday of the season. New England won, 13-7. In the final game of the season, the Pats beat the Miami Dolphins, 24-10, in Joe Robbie Stadium. Three weeks before, they had beaten the New York Jets, 42-20, to make a sweep of the division down the stretch.

The Patriots did miss the playoffs for the first time in three years, but there were compensations. During the last month of the season, the running game, which was virtually bankrupt in 1986, averaged 150 yards. Much of that was due to the development of rookie starters Bruce Armstrong and Danny Villa at the tackle, rookie Robert Perryman at fullback, sec-



PATRIOTS 1987 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Franklin, 82 points on 37 extra points and 15 field goals. 10th.
RUSHING—Collins, 474 yards on 147 carries, 3.2 avg., 3 TDs. 17th.
PASSING—Grogan, 93 of 161 attempts for 1,183 yards and 10 TDs. unranked.
RECEIVING—Collins, 44 receptions for 347 yards, 7.9 avg., 3 TDs. 19th.
INTERCEPTIONS—Marion, 4 for 53 yards, 13.3 avg. 10th.
PUNTING—Camarillo, 62 punts, 40.1 avg., longest 73 yards. 8th.
PUNT RETURNS—Fryar, 18 for 174 yards, 9.7 avg. unranked.
KICKOFF RETURNS—Starrig, 23 for 445 yards, 19.3 avg. 9th.

August	6	ATLANTA (N)
	13	Houston (at Memphis, TN, N)
	20	At Philadelphia (N)
	26	CINCINNATI (N)

	1988 SCHEDULE	1987 SCORES
September	4 NEW YORK JETS	42-20
	11 at MIAMI	14-7
	18 BUFFALO	21-7
October	25 at HOUSTON	24-0
	2 INDIANAPOLIS	—
	9 vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee	—
	16 CINCINNATI	13-7
	23 at Buffalo	—
November	30 CHICAGO	—
	6 MIAMI	28-21
	13 at New York Jets	24-43
	20 at Miami (N)	24-10
	27 at Indianapolis	16-30
December	4 SEATTLE	—
	11 TAMPA BAY	—
	17 at Denver	20-31

ond-year running back Reggie Dupard, and late-developing center Trevor Matich.

There is undeniable carryover value in finishing a season with a three-game winning streak, but the Pats, despite their talent and reinforcements, are not a team without worries. The principal one revolves around the quarterback position. Steve Grogan finished the season there and was decreed the starter



for 1988 by the coach, Raymond Berry. Not only did Grogan put up impressive statistics (10 touchdowns and 1,183 yards in his abbreviated playing time), but he was also a virtual coach on the field. He is the only NFL quarterback who calls his own plays. In fact, he calls the plays when anyone else is at quarterback for New England. Yet Grogan is 35 years old, and asking him to serve as the starter for another year, considering his age and his history of injuries, is a little like asking Yaz to come out of retirement and bat cleanup for the Red Sox. Eason, who was lost for the last half of the season due to a shoulder injury, is still the quarterback who guided this team to the Super Bowl three years ago. If the Pats have given up on him, there could be chaos at the position, with even Doug Flutie, acquired from the Chicago Bears in a favorite-son move, in the picture.

Another concern is the loss of defensive coordinator Rod Rust, who rejoined the Kansas City Chiefs. Not only are the Pats deprived of a respected strategist, but Berry concocted a formula for disaster when he announced that Rust's duties will be shared by a troika of assistant coaches: Ed Khayat, Gummy Carr, and Don Shinnick.

The Patriots stole the man who might have been the best running back in the draft. John Stephens of Northwestern Louisiana State, an elusive, speedy 217-pounder. It's a good thing, too, since Tony Collins, who led the Pats in rushing and receiving, has been released.

Stanley Morgan keeps rolling along. He made the Pro Bowl again in his 11th season as a Patriot. He had 40 receptions for a 16.8-yard average. Fryar for all his erratic behavior caught 31 passes and five touchdowns and led the club in punt returns with a 9.7-yard average. Stephen Starring and Cedric Jones each caught three touchdown passes in relief roles. There is an exciting newcomer in Sammy Martin of LSU, who played running back for most of his college career. Lin Dawson, a trusted blocker, is the starting tight end, but the Pats reacquired Russ Francis late last year and the 36-year-old former all-pro may be valuable in spot receiving roles.

The offensive line, which played well down the stretch, is likely to be improved. Armstrong, the big tackle who had a fine rookie year, played the entire season with his shoulder in a harness. He underwent surgery during the offseason to correct the problem. The other tackle, Villa, also was a rookie. Sean Farrell, who played strongly after a trade brought him from Tampa Bay, also had shoulder surgery to relieve a bothersome condition. Center Trevor Matich, who spent half the season on injured reserve, returned in early November to play impressively. This may be one of the Pats' best areas.

The Pats will have to make some major changes in their linebacking. Steve Nelson retired and outside backer Don Backmon was forced into a coaching career by a neck injury. Dick Steinberg, the canny personnel chief, took a major move toward replacing Nelson by taking Vincent Brown of Mississippi Valley State, the top sleeper in the draft. Ed Williams is Backmon's successor. Andre Tippett remains the mainstay of the defense. He led the Pats in sacks and was named to his fourth consecutive Pro Bowl. Lawrence McGrew is the other inside linebacker.

The strengths of a good secondary are the safeties. Fred Marion led the team with 103 tackles. Strong safety Roland James was injured early in the year and Jim Bowman, his replacement, played so well that James will be pressed to win back the job. Ronnie Lip-

pett, in the estimation of Berry, is among the best NFL cornerbacks. Raymond Clayborn is expected to regain the other corner job now that his knee injury has healed.

Right end Garin Vers is the most effective lineman. He had seven sacks. The nose tackle is Toby Williams and the left end Kenneth Sims, who plays the run better than the pass.

Draftee Teddy Garcia of Northeast Louisiana challenges veteran place-kicker Tony Franklin, who missed too many medium-length field goals.

WATSON PATRIOTS ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
78	Armstrong, Bruce	T	6-4	284	22	Louisville
25	Beasley, Derrick	SS	6-1	205	22	Winston-Salem
28	Bowman, Jim	SS	6-2	210	25	Central Michigan
58	Brock, Pete	C	6-5	275	34	Colorado
3	Camacho, Rich	P	5-11	185	29	Washington
26	Clayborn, Raymond	CB	6-0	186	33	Texas
63	Collins, George	T	6-4	279	25	Maryland
40	Davis, Elgin	RB	5-10	192	22	Central Florida
87	Dawson, Lin	TE	6-3	240	28	N.C. State
21	Dupard, Reggie	RB	5-11	205	25	SMU
11	Eason, Tony	QB	6-4	212	29	Illinois
66	Fairchild, Paul	OL	6-4	270	27	Kansas
62	Farrell, Sean	G	6-3	260	28	Penn State
2	Flutie, Doug	QB	5-10	175	26	Boston College
49	Francis, Russ	TE	6-6	242	35	Oregon
1	Franklin, Tony	K	5-8	182	32	Texas A&M
80	Fryar, Irving	WR	6-0	200	26	Nebraska
46	Gachois, Dennis	WR	6-1	183	24	Boston University
43	Gibson, Ernest	CB	5-10	186	27	Furman
99	Gibson, Tom	DE	6-7	250	24	Northern Arizona
14	Grogan, Steve	QB	6-4	210	35	Kansas State
35	Hansen, Bruce	RB	6-1	225	26	Bingham Young
97	Hodge, Millard	NT	6-3	278	27	Washington St.
41	Holmes, Darryl	FS	6-2	190	23	Fort Valley St.
32	James, Craig	RB	6-0	215	27	SMU
38	James, Roland	SS	6-2	191	30	Tennessee
83	Jones, Cedric	WR	6-1	184	28	Duke
93	Jordan, Tim	LB	6-3	226	24	Wisconsin
9	Lewis, Walter	QB	6-0	198	26	Alabama
17	Linne, Larry	WR	6-1	185	26	Texas-E. Paso
42	Lippett, Ronnie	CB	5-11	180	28	Miami
31	Marion, Fred	FS	6-2	191	29	Miami
64	Matich, Trevor	C	6-4	270	27	Bingham Young
48	McCabe, Jerry	LB	5-1	225	23	Holy Cross
50	McGrew, Lawrence	LB	6-5	233	31	USC
23	McSwain, Rod	CB	6-1	198	26	Clemson
67	Moore, Steve	T	6-5	305	28	Tennessee St.
86	Morgan, Stanley	WR	5-11	181	33	Tennessee
75	Morris, Guy	OL	6-4	280	37	TCU
34	Morrison, Bob	RB	6-1	233	23	Michigan
70	Plunkett, Art	T	6-8	282	29	Nevada-Las Vegas
22	Proffitt, Eugene	CB	5-10	175	24	Yale
12	Randsey, Tom	QB	6-1	189	27	JCLA
52	Reibert, Johnny	LB	6-3	234	27	Clemson
95	Reynolds, Ed	LB	6-5	242	27	Virginia
65	Ruth, Mike	NT	6-1	266	24	Boston College
88	Scott, Willie	TE	6-4	245	28	South Carolina
77	Sims, Kenneth	DE	6-5	271	29	Texas
81	Starring, Stephen	WR	5-10	172	27	Missouri State
30	Talup, Masi	RB	6-0	227	33	USC
56	Tippett, Andre	LB	6-3	241	29	Iowa
60	Vers, Garin	DE	6-4	255	26	Stanford
73	Villa, Danny	T	6-5	305	28	Arizona State
24	Weathers, Robert	RB	6-2	225	28	Arizona State
96	Williams, Brent	DE	6-3	278	24	Toledo
82	Williams, Derwin	WR	5-11	185	27	New Mexico
54	Williams, Ed	LB	6-4	244	27	Texas
90	Williams, Toby	NT	6-4	270	29	Nebraska
61	Woolen, Ron	G	6-4	273	29	North Carolina

DRAFTIES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Stephens, John	HB	5-11	216	NW Louisiana St.
2	Brown, Vincent	LB	6-1	245	Miss. Valley St.
3	Rehder, Tom	T	6-6	270	Notre Dame
4	Goad, Tim	DT	6-2	270	North Carolina
4	Martin, Sammy	WR	5-11	175	LSU
4	Garcia, Teddy	K	5-10	180	NE Louisiana
5	Wolkow, Troy	G	6-3	269	Minnesota
6	Johnson, Steve	TE	6-5	240	Virginia Tech
7	Lusher, Darryl	WR	5-7	164	Illinois
9	Galbraith, Neil	CB	5-11	175	Central State, Okla.
10	Lossow, Rodney	C	6-2	272	Wisconsin
11	Allen, Marvin	RB	5-9	205	Tulane
12	Nugent, Dave	NT	6-2	269	Boston College



ANDRE TIPPETT

The availability of Craig James and Robert Weathers is unknown, too, since James is recovering from knee surgery and Weathers from an ankle injury. Reggie Dupard, the No. 1 draftee in 1986, finished second in rushing with 318 yards and a 3.4-yard average. Perryman, used mostly as a blocker, had big games against Indianapolis, Buffalo, and Miami near the end of the season.



STEVE GROGAN

BUFFALO BILLS

Buffalo should be bracketed with Indianapolis as one of the AFC's coming powers, except that the Bills keep losing their concentration. They shut out Miami, 27-0, something that almost never happens to a Dan Marino team, but the next week the Bills made Marc Wilson look like a Pro Bowl quarterback and lost to the Raiders. In December, their defense made Eric Dickerson suffer through his worst game as a pro and stuffed the Colts, 27-3, in the Hoosier Dome. Then, with the playoffs in sight, the Bills lost to New England and Philadelphia. The diagnosis is a lack of maturity.

For the Bills, who compiled an aggregate 23-56 record over the last five seasons, talent isn't so much of a problem any longer. They have one of the better NFL quarterbacks now in Jim Kelly. There are three top-shelf defensive stars—end Bruce Smith and linebackers Cornelius Bennett and Shane Conlan. Marv Levy did a commendable coaching job in his first full season with the team. The question is how much they learned from their 1987 mistakes, ones that were committed when the pressure was applied.

Overall, Kelly's passing is still the team's primary offensive weapon. He threw for 2,798 yards and 19 touchdowns while his percentage of interceptions, 2.6, was among the lowest in the league. But the Bills still have to learn to run the ball more efficiently if they are to win late in the season. They play only two home games after November 1 and one other in a northern, undomed stadium, but the development of a ball-control running game to balance Kelly's powerful arm is essential.

Defensively, the Bills chart their progress from mid-season 1987, when they made their bombshell deal for linebacker Bennett. In six of the eight games he played, they limited opponents to just over 10 points per game. Some opponents already are calling Bennett the best pass rusher in the NFL. He had one sack a game after barging into the lineup at mid-season without training camp or any other preparation. Defensive coordinator Walt Corey is candid about his plans for 1988. Bennett will be a focal point of the pass rush on the left side and Bruce Smith, the defensive player of the year in the AFC, on the right. Bennett's coverage will be secondary.

Smith, an enormous load for any pass-protection scheme, had 12½ sacks last year. With Bennett on the other side prohibiting multiple-blocking burdens, he should be even more effective. Nose tackle Fred Smerlas is no longer a Pro Bowler, but he had one of his better seasons and still ties up traffic in the middle. Sean McNanie, the left end, is not up to their standards, but he could be pushed by Leon Seals, who broke in as a rookie by contributing in pass-rush situations.

The linebacking doesn't end with Bennett. Shane Conlan was the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year. The ex-Penn State star was moved from outside to inside linebacker after Bennett arrived and flourished at his new position. Corey put the emphasis on pursuit and Conlan is relentless. Darryl Talley had his best season behind Smith on the right side. Scott Radecki, who played for Corey in Kansas City, was the other inside backer. The Bills have another young comer in Hal Garner, who won a starting job on the outside in training camp and then suffered a knee injury.

JIM KELLY

1988 SCHEDULE AND RANKINGS

SCORING—Norwood, 61 points on 31 extra points and 10 field goals.
RUSHING—Harmon, 485 yards on 116 carries, 4.2 avg., 2 TDs.
PASSING—Kelly, 250 of 419 attempts for 2,798 yards and 19 TDs.
RECEIVING—Reed, 57 receptions for 752 yards, 13.2 avg., 6 TDs.
INTERCEPTIONS—Kelso, 6 for 25 yards, 4.2 avg., 11st.
PUNTING—Kidd, 64 punts, 39.0 avg., longest 67 yards.
PUNT RETURNS—Pitts, 23 for 149 yards, 6.5 avg.
KICKOFF RETURNS—Tasker, 11 for 197 yards, 17.9 avg., unranked.

1988 SCHEDULE

August
 4 At Houston (N)
 13 CINCINNATI (N)
 19 At Seattle (N)
 26 Tampa Bay (at Nashville, TN, N)

1988 SCHEDULE	1987 SCORES
September	
4 MINNESOTA	—
11 MIAMI	27-0
18 At New England	7-14
25 PITTSBURGH	—
October	
2 At Chicago	—
9 INDIANAPOLIS	6-47
17 At New York Jets (N)	17-14
23 NEW ENGLAND	7-13
30 GREEN BAY	—
November	
6 At Seattle	—
14 At Miami (N)	(OT) 34-31
20 NEW YORK JETS	28-31
27 At Cincinnati	—
December	
4 At Tampa Bay	—
11 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	21-34
18 At Indianapolis	27-3

Cornerback Nate Odomes made the all-rookie teams, but the other corner position will be a battle among incumbent Derrick Burroughs, sophomore Roland Mitchell and ex-Charger Wayne Davis. Headly Mark Kelso played well at free safety. Strong safety is a mystery. Dwight Drane and Ron Pitts shared it last year, but the Bills will try Pittsburgh's All-America linebacker, Zeke Gadson, at the position. He had 22 sacks as a senior but is too small to play linebacker in the pros.

Kelly suffered an injury to his passing arm in the Pro Bowl and it nagged him into the spring. The Bills have to be a little worried. They also have to give him an opportunity for more explosion. The Bills were the only team in the league last year without an offensive player in play for more than 50 yards. The draft may have helped, since Oklahoma State running back Thurman Thomas and Central Florida receiver Bernard Ford were the first two picks. When the Bills faltered late last season it was due, at least in part, to the absence of a running back. Thomas, who runs on a knee the medics consider a risk, scored 18 touchdowns and ran for more than 1,600 yards last year. His 173-yard effort against Oklahoma, which included bursts of 53 and 42 yards, was the biggest day by a running back against the Sooners in 20 seasons. Ford built along the smurf lines of the Redskins' receivers, was

among the fastest players in the draft. He dominated at the small-college level.

Thomas gives coach Marv Levy the opportunity to build a versatile running attack. Jamie Mueller made the leap from Division III to starting fullback in the NFL, averaging 4.3 yards on 82 carries. Robb Riddick, a utility back, was leading the NFL in scoring with 50 points when he broke his collarbone. Ronnie Harmon lost his way late in his first season as the starting halfback, but he is an enormous threat as a receiver. He caught 56 passes.

The starting receivers, Andre Reed and Chris Burkett, finished third and fourth, respectively, in the AFC with 57 and 56 catches. Reed averaged 13.2 yards per catch and scored five touchdowns. Burkett averaged 13.7 and scored four times. The presence of Ford might open things up for them. The tight end, Pete Metzelaars, slipped from 42 to 28 receptions. He doesn't gain much yardage after he catches the ball, so ex-basketball player Keith McKellar may get a long look.

The offensive line graded well overall, but it slipped badly in the last few weeks, possibly because of lack of size. Joe Devlin begins his 13th season as a starting tackle. Will Wolford, the other tackle, is a future star. Mitch Fretotte, who skipped his final year of eligibility at Penn State to turn pro, will push Jim Ritcher and Tim Vogeler for one of the guard jobs. Kent Hull is

a steady center. Rookie Howard Ballard will be Devlin's eventual replacement.

Steve Tasker was named to the Pro Bowl in recognition of his work on the coverage teams. The Bills need a bigger contribution from the place-kicker, so Kirk Roach of Western Carolina will challenge incumbent Scott Norwood. Punter John Kidd battles winds in Rich Stadium, but he still needs a better year than he had in 1987, although he did place 20 kicks inside the 20-yard line.

1988 BILLS DRAFT PICKS

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
55	Bennett, Cornelius	LB	6-2	235	22	Alabama
56	Bortley Ray	LB	6-2	245	28	Central Michigan
81	Broughton, Walter	WR	5-10	180	26	Jacksonville St.
77	Brown, Tony	OT	6-5	285	24	Pittsburgh
85	Burkett, Chris	WR	6-4	210	26	Jackson State
29	Burroughs, Derrick	CB	6-1	180	26	Memphis State
61	Burton, Leonard	T	6-3	275	24	South Carolina
80	Butler, Jerry	WR	6-0	178	31	Clemson
82	Bynum, Reggie	WR	6-1	185	24	Oregon St.
35	Bynum, Carl	FB	6-0	235	25	Miss. Valley St.
69	Christy, Greg	G	6-4	285	26	Pittsburgh
58	Conlan, Shane	LB	6-3	230	24	Penn State
21	Davis, Wayne	CB	5-11	175	25	Indiana St.
70	Devlin, Joe	T	6-5	280	34	Iowa
45	Drane, Dwight	S	6-2	205	26	Oklahoma
59	Fierotte, Mitch	G	6-3	280	23	Penn State
53	Furman, Tony	LB	6-1	228	24	No. Dame
50	Gamer, Hal	LB	6-4	235	26	Jish State
8	Gelbaugh, Stan	QB	6-3	207	26	Maryland
75	Hamby, Mark	DE	6-4	270	26	Jish State
92	Hammond, Steve	LB	6-4	225	28	Wake Forest
33	Harmon, Ronnie	RB	5-11	192	24	Iowa
71	Hellestrae, Dale	T	6-5	275	26	SMU
67	Hull, Kent	C	6-4	275	27	Mississippi St.
20	Johnson, Flip	WR	5-10	185	25	McNeese St.
48	Johnson, Lawrence	S	5-11	202	31	Wisconsin
■	Johnson, Trumaine	WR	6-1	196	28	Grambling
52	Kaiser, John	LB	6-3	227	26	Arizona
12	Kelly, Jim	QB	6-3	218	28	Miami
■	Kelso, Mark	S	5-11	177	25	William & Mary
4	Kidd, John	P	6-3	208	27	Northwestern
63	Lingner, Adam	C	6-4	260	28	Illinois
13	McClure, Brian	QB	6-5	222	25	Bowling Green
95	McNamee, Sean	DE	6-5	270	27	San Diego St.
54	Manve, Eugene	LB	6-2	240	28	Saginaw Valley
74	Messner, Bruce	NT	6-5	280	24	Maryland
88	Metzelaars, Pete	TE	6-7	243	28	Webster
25	Mitchell, Roland	CB	5-11	180	24	Texas Tech
39	Mueller, Jamie	FB	6-1	225	24	Benedictine
11	Norwood, Scott	K	6-0	207	28	James Madison
37	Odomes, Nate	CB	5-9	188	23	Wisconsin
27	Pitts, Ron	CB	5-10	175	26	UCLA
57	Pike, Mark	LB	6-4	257	25	Georgia Tech
30	Porter, Kerry	RB	6-1	210	24	Washington St.
■	Porter, Ricky	RB	5-10	210	28	Slippery Rock
79	Prater, Dean	DE	6-4	260	30	Oklahoma St.
97	Radicic, Scott	LB	6-3	242	26	Penn State
83	Reed, Andre	WR	6-0	190	24	Kutztown St.
14	Reich, Frank	QB	6-3	208	27	Maryland
40	Riddick, Robb	FB	6-0	195	31	Millersville St.
51	Ritcher, Jim	G	6-3	265	30	N. Carolina St.
87	Roffe, Don	TE	6-3	242	24	Michigan St.
■	Sampson, Clint	WR	5-11	183	27	San Diego St.
96	Seals, Leon	DE	6-4	265	24	Jackson St.
76	Smerdas, Fred	NT	6-3	280	31	Boston College
78	Smith, Bruce	DE	6-4	265	25	Virginia Tech
56	Talley, Darrel	LB	6-4	227	28	West Virginia
89	Tasker, Steve	WR	5-9	186	26	Northwestern
62	Traynowicz, Mark	G	6-5	280	26	Nebraska
65	Vogler, Tim	G	6-3	285	32	Ohio State
73	Wolford, Will	T	6-5	276	24	Vanderbilt

1988 BILLS FREE AGENTS

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
2	Thomas, Thurman	HB	5-10	194	Oklahoma State
3	Ford, Bernard	WR	5-9	168	Central Florida
5	Gadson, Zeke	DB	6-0	205	Pittsburgh
5	Roach, Kirk	K	6-1	223	Western Carolina
6	Murray, Dan	LB	6-1	240	East Stroudsburg
7	Borky, Tim	OT	6-7	288	Memphis State
7	Wright, Bo	RB	6-1	209	Alabama
8	Hagy, John	DB	6-1	182	Texas
8	Wright, Jeff	NT	6-3	260	Central Mo. St.
9	Barley, Carlton	NT	6-3	245	North Carolina
10	Mayhew, Martin	DB	5-10	172	Florida State
11	Curkendall, Pete	NT	6-2	279	Penn State
12	Drescoll, John	OT	6-5	280	New Hampshire
12	Erlanson, Tom	LB	6-2	216	Washington



INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Ron Meyer, their coach, is a realist about the Colts, even though they won a division championship a year ago. "I like our team, but we're sandwiched in a division where everyone has a chance to win—particularly when you have the type of quarterback talent we have in this division," he said.

The Colts are the team with the least quarterback talent of the five AFC East teams. They bear a strong resemblance to the Los Angeles Rams of a few years ago. That is, a team that made the playoffs on the strength of Eric Dickerson's running and on sound defense, but a team handicapped by its lack of passing firepower. The Colts have been trying to establish Gary Hogeboom as a winner, but Hogeboom has been as inconsistent as he was with the Dallas Cowboys. Now he has to recover from a serious injury: a dislocated passing shoulder. There is something else Hogeboom broke the strike last year, an act that has not been forgotten by his teammates. "We're hoping for a full recovery without surgery," says Meyer of Hogeboom's injury.

Even with Hogeboom in the lineup, the Colts will live or die with Dickerson, who cost them a fortune in draft choices. So far they have lived well. In the next to last game of the season, when the Colts had to win at San Diego, Dickerson's 53-yard run set up Albert Bentley's three-yard, clinching touchdown that averted elimination from the playoffs. In the last game, Dickerson ran for 196 yards and two touchdowns as Indy beat Tampa Bay to clinch the division title. He finished as runner-up to Charles White, his successor in the Ram backfield, as the NFL rushing champion with 1,288 yards, 1,011 of which were gained in an Indianapolis uniform. He should be even more dangerous as he grows more accustomed to his new team. His teammates are willing. They know he is their main ticket. That's important, because what made him leave the Los Angeles Rams was a feeling that he wasn't appreciated. The Colts have shown their appreciation financially.

Dickerson has the sort of offensive line behind which he made headlines and set records in Los Angeles. Center Ray Donaldson, guard Ron Solt, and tackle Chris Hinton made the last Pro Bowl. Some say Hinton is overrated. Not a polished pass blocker, he gave up eight sacks and is vulnerable to quick defensive ends. But he can run-block, and the Colts can take that to the bank. Tackle Kevin Calit and guard Ben Ulit are experienced, tough run-blockers. The rising star of the unit is guard Randy Dixon.

One of the big surprises of the draft was that the Colts did not take a tight end. Pat Beach can be a troublesome receiver, but there's no major-league-quality tight end on the roster. The key men in the passing game are Billy Brooks, the underrated wide receiver, and running back Albert Bentley. Brooks caught 52 passes for a 14.2-yard average. Bentley's 13.1-yard average on 34 catches was startling for a running back. His ball-carrying was overlooked by the arrival of Dickerson, but he ran for 631 yards and seven touchdowns. Matt Bouza, a possession receiver, had 42 catches and four touchdowns.

In assessing Indianapolis for 1988, it's important to remember that the place-kicker, Dean Biasucci, had a landmark year, with only



COLTS 1987 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Biasucci: 96 points on 24 extra points and 24 field goals. 2nd
RUSHING—Dickerson: 1,288 yards on 283 carries, 4.6 avg., 6 TDs. 1st
PASSING—Trudeau: 126 of 229 attempts for 1,587 yards and 6 TDs. 9th
RECEIVING—Brooks: 51 receptions for 722 yards, 14.2 avg., 3 TDs. 10th
INTERCEPTIONS—Prior: 6 for 57 yards, 9.5 avg. 1st
PUNTING—Stark: 61 punts, 40.0 avg., longest 63 yards. 10th
PUNT RETURNS—Brooks: 22 for 136 yards, 6.2 avg. 11th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Bentley: 22 for 500 yards, 22.7 avg. 2nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 6 At Tampa Bay (N)
13 GREEN BAY (N)
20 NEW ORLEANS (N)
25 At Denver (N)

1988 SCHEDULE

		1987 SCORES
September	4 HOUSTON	51-27
	11 CHICAGO	—
	19 At Cleveland (N)	9-7
	25 MIAMI	10-23
October	2 At New England	0-24
	9 At Buffalo	47-6
	16 TAMPA BAY	24-6
	23 At San Diego	20-7
	31 DENVER (N)	—
November	6 NEW YORK JETS	6-0
	13 At Green Bay	—
	20 At Minnesota	—
	27 NEW ENGLAND	30-6
December	4 At Miami	40-21
	10 At New York Jets	19-14
	18 BUFFALO	3-27

three misses in 27 field-goal attempts. The team may need that sort of accuracy again.

The Colts traded away their top two draft choices in the Dickerson deal, which was all right, but they used their remaining top pick for University of Washington quarterback Chris Chandler. Undoubtedly Chandler, a fine athlete who needs a few years of coaching and polishing, is the new quarterback of the future. In the meantime, the decision to draft him alienated Jack Trudeau, who did most of the quarterbacking a year ago when Hogeboom was hurt. Trudeau, held in check by the Colt strategists, threw for just six touchdowns and 1,587 yards.

The Colts took a major risk defensively, which, if it turns out, could return them to the playoffs again. That was the signing of long-time all-pro Joe Klecko, who was declared too much of a medical gamble for his old team.

the New York Jets, to keep Klecko swears his bad knee is O.K. now and is dying to prove it. The Colts needed a nose tackle and a healthy Klecko would give them a great one. He could occupy at least two blockers, giving the Colts admirable linebackers all sorts of opportunities to make mischief. Klecko wouldn't hurt the ends, Jon Hand and Donnell Thompson, either. Thompson, a late bloomer, is the best pass rusher among the down linemen. Hand is very tough against the run.

The strength of the defense is the linebacking. Duane Bickett should be a Pro Bowl outside backer for the foreseeable future. Johnnie Cooks is a fine talent on the other side. Barry Krauss continues his remarkable comeback on the inside. Cliff Odom is his partner.

It's another story in the secondary. After Chandler, the Colts drafted two defensive backs, Michael Ball of Southern and John Baylor of Southern Mississippi. Both could find immediate work. The best of the returnees is cornerback Eugene Daniel, whose forte is coverage. Unless one of the rookies has a big say, John Holt and Willie Tullis will compete on

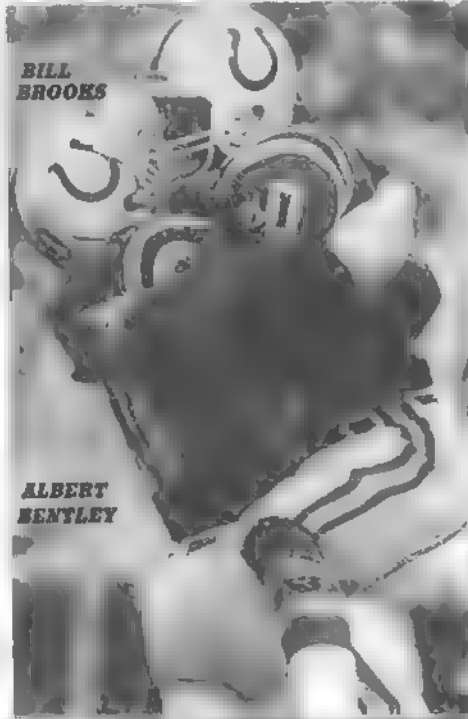
the other side. Nesby Glasgow, the strong safety, may be slipping a bit at age 31, but Freddie Robinson, who made the all-rookie team, and Mike Prior, who replaced Robinson after he was injured, show some promise. Prior tied for the AFC lead with six interceptions.

The Colts' most critical area this season may be their decision-making on offense. They have to find a way to get Dickerson and Bentley into the game at the same time. They also have to put some more balance into their passing attack. And with their dependence on Hogeboom and their decision to draft Chandler, they may have muddled the quarterback situation. Hogeboom has missed 21 of 32 games with injury since Indianapolis acquired him from the Dallas Cowboys. Trudeau may not be spectacular, but as Meyer admitted, "we would not have made the playoffs last year without him."

"We're at a very important stage," said general manager Jimmy Irsay. "One little move can make a great difference. With a little fine-tuning, we have a chance to achieve what we want—to get to the Super Bowl and win it."



RAY DONALDSON



ALBERT BENTLEY



WILLIE TULLIS



INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

no.	name	pos.	h.	wt.	age	college
57	Ahrens, Dave	LB	6-4	249	30	Wisconsin
78	Armstrong, Harvey	NT	6-3	268	29	SMU
35	Banks, Chuck	RB	6-1	227	24	W. Virginia Tech
81	Beach, Pat	TE	6-4	252	29	Washington St.
07	Bellin, Mark	WR	5-11	185	24	Bingham Young
20	Bentley, Albert	RB	5-11	214	28	Miami
4	Bassucci, Dean	K	6-0	191	26	Western Carolina
50	Bickett, Duane	LB	6-5	243	26	Southern Cal.
85	Bouza, Matt	WR	6-3	212	29	California
84	Boyer, Mark	TE	6-4	242	26	Southern Cal.
88	Brandes, John	TE	6-2	237	24	Cameron
80	Brooks, Bill	WR	6-0	191	24	Boston
74	Brutto, Bob	DT	6-5	283	26	Syracuse
68	Broughton, Willie	DE	6-5	281	24	Miami
72	Call, Kevin	OT	6-7	302	27	Colorado St.
31	Coleman, Leonard	S	6-2	202	26	Vanderbilt
98	Cooks, Johnnie	LB	6-4	252	30	Mississippi St.
38	Daniel, Eugene	CB	5-11	178	27	LSU
72	Darby, Byron	DE	6-4	260	28	Southern Cal.
29	Dickerson, Eric	RB	6-3	217	28	SMU
89	Dixon, Randy	OT	6-3	293	23	Pittsburgh
53	Donaldson, Ray	C	6-3	288	30	Georgia
25	Glasgow, Nesby	S	5-10	187	31	Washington
37	Goode, Chris	DB	6-0	193	25	Alabama
51	Hancock, Kevin	LB	6-2	225	26	Baylor
78	Hand, Jon	DE	6-7	296	25	Alabama
	Herrmann, Mark	QB	6-4	199	29	Purdue
75	Hendon, Chris	G	6-4	295	27	Northwestern
7	Hogeboom, Gary	QB	6-4	208	30	Central Michigan
21	Holt, John	CB	5-10	179	29	West Texas St.
58	James, June	LB	6-1	236	26	Texas
94	Kellar, Scott	NT	6-3	279	25	Northern Illinois
	Klecko, Joe	NT	6-3	263	35	Temple
55	Krauss, Barry	LB	6-3	269	31	Alabama
92	Leading, Jeff	LB	6-3	239	27	Texas
59	Lowry, Orlando	LB	6-4	236	27	Ohio State
43	McCloskey, Mike	TE	6-5	246	27	Penn. State
32	McMillan, Randy	FB	6-0	220	30	Pittsburgh
86	Murray, Walter	WR	6-4	202	26	Hawaii
14	Nugent, Terry	DB	6-4	214	27	Colorado St.
93	Odom, Cliff	LB	6-2	245	30	Texas-Arlington
65	Palton, Joel	OT	6-7	307	30	Duke
43	Perryman, Jim	DB	6-0	187	28	Illinois
39	Prior, Mike	DB	6-0	200	25	Illinois State
47	Robinson, Freddie	DB	6-1	191	24	Alabama
13	Salsbury, Sean	QB	6-5	215	25	Southern Cal.
76	Sally, Jerome	NT	6-3	270	29	Missouri
83	Shenwin, Tim	TE	6-5	252	30	Boston College
66	Soli, Ron	DE	6-3	285	26	Maryland
3	Stark, Robin	P	6-3	204	29	Florida St.
26	Swoope, Craig	DB	6-1	200	24	Illinois
99	Thompson, Donnell	DE	6-4	275	30	North Carolina
62	Thorp, Don	DL	6-4	260	26	Illinois
10	Trudeau, Jack	QB	6-3	213	26	Illinois
42	Tullis, Willie	CB	5-11	195	30	Troy State
64	Uhl, Ben	DE	6-6	286	29	Georgia Tech
	Verdin, Clarence	WR	5-8	160	25	SW Louisiana
48	Walczak, Mark	TE	6-6	246	26	Arizona
34	Wansley, George	RB	5-10	219	28	Mississippi St.
	Woodard, Ken	LB	6-1	227	28	Tuskegee
27	Wright, Terry	DB	6-0	195	23	Temple

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

rd.	name	pos.	h.	wt.	college
3	Chandler, Chris	QB	6-3	215	Washington
4	Ball, Michael	S	6-0	211	Southern
5	Baylor, John	CB	6-0	192	Southern Miss
9	Herrod, Jeff	LB	6-1	240	Mississippi
10	Alston, O'Brien	LB	6-7	227	Maryland
11	Dae, Donnie	DE	6-4	240	Tulsa
12	Kennedy, Aaron	WR	5-10	172	Wis.-Stevens Pl.
12	Vesling, Tim	PK	5-11	178	Syracuse

MIAMI DOLPHINS

It is no longer possible to analyze the Miami Dolphins and proclaim that quarterback Dan Marino and the "Marks Brother," wide receivers Mark Duper and Mark Clayton, are the sum and substance of the team. Once that was a popular concept. Marino and his pass catchers might still be the heart of the team, but there is much more, starting with the offensive line.

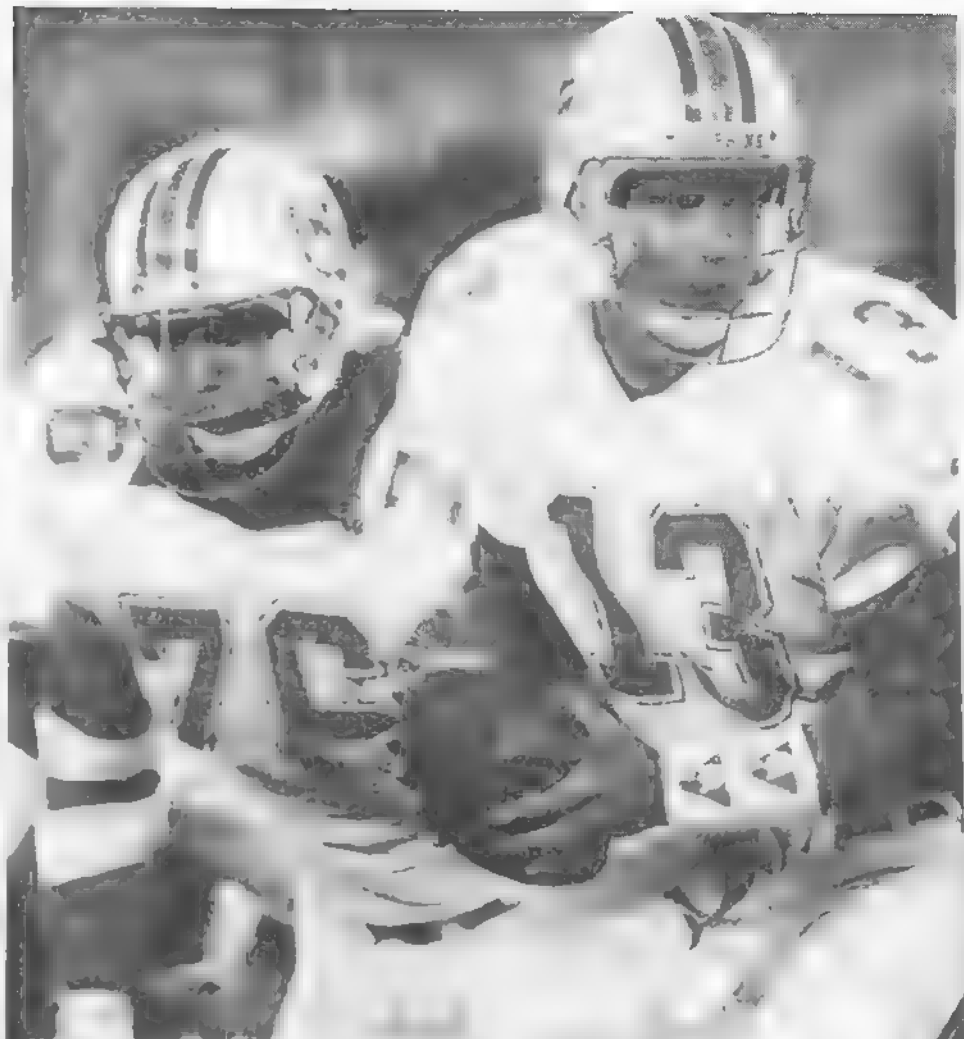
But now there are troubles in that line, and that is why it is difficult to predict where Miami might end up in 1988. Dwight Stephenson, the best man in the unit and one of the finest centers in the history of the NFL, suffered a serious knee injury in the season's final month. His rehabilitation may extend well into this year. There is even worry that Stephenson's career may be over, since he suffered nerve damage that still affects his left foot. The same sort of injury led to the eventual retirement of Atlanta's star fullback, William Andrews. Stephenson's injury is not the sole worry. Tackle Ronnie Lee has a recurring groin pull. The other tackle, Jon Geisler, has a chronic knee injury.

Marino was sacked just nine times last season. Only once in his career, in 1985, was he sacked for an average of more than once a game. Even at that it was just 18 sacks in 16 games. That sort of protection is the keystone to Marino's effectiveness as a passer. The Dolphins must find some way to restore the normal shield for their passer.

John Sandusky, the offensive line coach, is well known for having converted chaff to wheat in the past. This time his task is a huge one. If Lee and Geisler are unable to play effectively, Sandusky must accelerate the development of two second-year men, Mark Dennis and Chris Conlin. They are bulky, 290-pounders with little experience. Sandusky is still working on Tom Toth, who started most of the season at right guard without distinguishing himself. Jeff Delenbach, a utility player, replaced Stephenson late last year. The only starting lineman of high quality who doesn't have an injury is left guard Roy Foster.

The injury situation in the line doesn't help the running game much, either, since that is still left to a committee of backs. Troy Stradford beat out Lorenzo Hampton as one starter and led the team with 619 yards. He also led in pass receptions with 48 for 457 yards. Ron Davenport and 10-year veteran Woody Bennett share the fullback role. Bennett is the better blocker, Davenport the more effective receiver. The offense is further limited by the absence of a premier tight end. This position has been manned by a committee, too, but Bruce Hardy is getting old and Dan Johnson's play has slipped.

Not that the Dolphins' offense is bankrupt, even though it appeared that way in late November, when the team was hammered by two AFC East upstarts, Indianapolis and Buffalo. There was a December rally that resulted in a late bid for the playoffs. Marino and coach Don Shula always seem to find a way to contend. Despite missing the three strike games, Marino still passed for 26 touchdowns and 3,245 yards. Duper caught eight touchdown passes and Clayton seven. James Pruitt, who had 26 receptions and scored three touchdowns as the extra receiver, may be a budding star. Scott Schwedes had a miserable rookie season, one filled with fumbles and dropped passes, but the word is that his confi-



DAN MARINO

DOLPHINS 1987 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Revez: 55 points on 28 extra points and 9 field goals. 14th
RUSHING—Stradford: 619 yards on 145 carries, 4.3 avg. 6th
PASSING—Marino: 263 of 444 attempts for 3,245 yards and 26 TDs. 2nd
RECEIVING—Stradford: 48 receptions for 457 yards, 9.5 avg. 1st
INTERCEPTIONS—Lankford: 3 for 44 yards, 14.7 avg. 23rd
PUNTING—Roby: 32 punts, 42.6 avg., longest 77 yards. unranked
PUNT RETURNS—Schwedes: 24 for 203 yards, 8.5 avg. 7th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Hampton: 16 for 304 yards, 19.0 avg. unranked

1987 SCHEDULE

August 6 at Chicago (W)
 13 WASHINGTON (W)
 19 DENVER (W)
 26 at Minnesota (W)

1988 SCHEDULE

September 4 at Chicago
 11 at Buffalo
 18 GREEN BAY
 25 at Indianapolis
 October 2 MINNESOTA
 9 at Los Angeles Raiders
 16 SAN DIEGO
 23 NEW YORK JETS
 30 at Tampa Bay
 November 6 at New England
 14 BUFFALO (W)
 20 NEW ENGLAND (W)
 27 at New York Jets
 December 4 INDIANAPOLIS
 12 CLEVELAND (W)
 8 at Pittsburgh

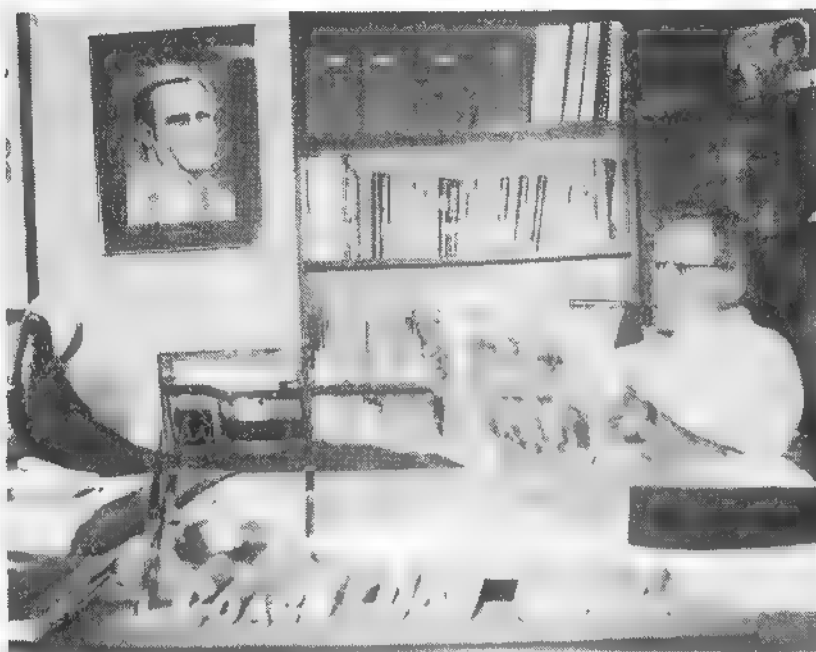
1987 SCORES

3-27
 -
 23-10
 -
 37-28
 2-28
 (OT) 31-34
 10-24
 (OT) 31-37
 23-40
 45-24

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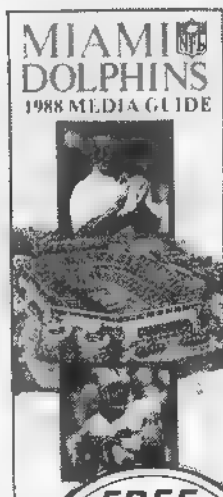


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dence returned as a result of offseason work. "Overall, defensively, I don't think we are close to where you have to be in order to be a playoff team," admitted Shula. "We have to work hard to reach that level."

The Dolphins also need an infusion of defensive talent. They took a long shot in the draft when they made Eric Kumerow of Ohio State their first-round pick. The idea is to play the 6-6½, 255-pound Buckeye as they used to employ Kim Bokamper: part linebacker, part down lineman. Shula thinks Kumerow has the speed and enough size to handle big offensive tackles. He hopes to apply heat on the opposing quarterback. Miami's 21 sacks were the second fewest in the NFL a year ago. "Our priority is the pass rush," confirmed Shula. "From the down lineman, to blitzing linebackers, to our nickel package, we just have to put more pressure on the passer."

This is the second year in a row that the Dolphins used their premium draft pick for a pass rusher. Last season it was John Bosa. He held out all summer and then, like many rookies, had his progress retarded by the

strike. Bosa started 12 games but had just three sacks. Shula feels that he will improve markedly this season after a full training camp. If Kumerow is an immediate hit, the left end T.J. Turner, might be used to reinforce nose tackle, where Brian Sochia gets overpowered too often. Turner led the team with four sacks, but he is not considered a top pass rusher.

The second-round draftee was Jarvis Williams, the Florida star. Williams played corner for most of his career, but the Dolphins are likely to use him at one of the safeties, the position he played for the Gators as a senior. As a strong tackler, he seems a natural for strong safety, but the Dolphins used five different free safeties in 1987, so they may need him to fill the hole. The incumbent defensive backs are Paul Lankford and William Judson on the corners, Liffort Hobley at strong safety, and Bud Brown at free. None played well enough to feel secure.

The linebacking long a Dolphin problem, has some silver linings at last. John Offerdahl overcame a serious biceps injury to become a Pro Bowl inside linebacker again. Jackie Shipp, who had struggled since Miami made him a No. 1 draft choice in 1984, finally had a sound year. After Hugh Green suffered a knee injury again, Mark Brown moved from the inside to fill in adequately at right outside back. Rick Graf beat out Bob Brudzinski in the last month of the season to start. Graf is somewhat stiff and unsure, but he is tough and could be used as an effective blitz. What Shula needs though is a healthy Green.

Punter Rick Rooy and place-kicker Fuad Reveiz were injured last year, but both are expected to recover. Reveiz faces the most pressure, as he hasn't given Shula the consistency he expects.



The draft also brought a candidate for the tight-end job, Ferrell Edmunds of Maryland, who needs some polishing, another huge offensive tackle in Oklahoma's Greg Johnson, Ohio State fullback George Cooper, and a quarterback project, Kerwin Bel of Florida. Marino's backups are odds. Don Stock and Ron Jaworski. The most interesting draft choice of all was a sixth-round pick, Miami fullback Melvin Bratton. Until he suffered a knee injury early in the Orange Bowl, Bratton was tabbed as one of the top dozen picks. He could spend a year on injured reserve, but the Dolphins may have stolen a future star.

MILWAUKEE VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht	wt	age	college
86	Banks, Fred	WR	5-10	180	26	Literly
34	Bennett, Woody	FB	6-2	244	32	Miami
75	Betters, Doug	DE	6-7	265	32	Nevada-Reno
47	Blackwood, Glenn	S	6-0	190	31	Texas
97	Bosa, John	DE	6-4	263	24	Boston College
43	Brown, Bud	S	6-0	194	27	Southern Miss
51	Brown, Mark	LB	6-2	235	27	Purdue
36	Brown, Tom	FB	6-1	218	24	Pittsburgh
59	Brudzinski, Bob	LB	6-4	223	33	Ohio State
83	Clayton, Mark	WR	5-9	175	27	Louisville
98	Cline, Jackie	NT	6-5	276	28	Alabama
67	Conlin, Chris	OL	6-4	290	23	Penn State
30	Davenport, Ron	FB	6-2	230	26	Louisville
65	Dellenbach, Jeff	OL	6-6	280	25	Wisconsin
74	Dennis, Mark	T	6-6	291	23	Illinois
85	Duper, Mark	WR	5-9	187	29	NW La.
61	Foster, Roy	G	6-4	275	28	Southern Cal
53	Frye, David	LB	6-2	227	27	Purdue
79	Giesler, Jon	T	6-5	265	32	Michigan
66	Gilmore, Jim	G	6-5	275	26	Ohio State
58	Graf, Rick	LB	6-5	239	25	Wisconsin
55	Green, Hugh	LB	6-2	225	29	Pittsburgh
71	Grueter, Bob	T	6-5	280	30	Pittsburgh
27	Hampton, Lorenzo	FB	6-0	203	26	Florida
84	Hardy, Bruce	TE	6-5	234	32	Arizona State
19	Hobley, Liffort	S	6-0	199	26	Louisiana State
17	Jaworski, Ron	QB	6-1	195	37	Youngstown State
38	Jenkins, DeShon	S	6-1	198	24	NW La. St.
11	Jensen, Jim	WR/RB	6-4	215	30	Boston U.
87	Johnson, Dan	TE	6-3	245	28	Iowa State
49	Judson, William	CB	6-2	190	29	S.C. State
16	Karsakos, Jim	QB	6-4	230	25	Ohio State
64	Kelroe, Scott	T	6-4	282	24	Illinois
54	Koltz, Larry	LB	6-1	238	25	Ohio State
69	Lambrecht, Mike	NT	6-1	271	25	St. Cloud St.
44	Lankford, Paul	CB	6-2	184	30	Penn State
72	Lee, Ronnie	T	6-4	265	32	Baylor
99	Little, George	DL	6-4	270	25	Iowa
13	Manno, Dan	QB	6-4	214	27	Pittsburgh
78	Marino, Doug	OL	6-6	269	24	Syracuse
28	McNee, Don	CB	5-11	192	30	Alabama
52	Nicolas, Scott	LB	6-3	226	28	Miami
56	Offerdahl, John	LB	6-2	232	24	Western Michigan
82	Pruitt, James	WR	6-2	199	24	Cal Fullerton
7	Reveiz, Fuad	K	5-11	217	25	Tennessee
4	Reby, Reggie	P	6-2	242	27	Iowa
81	Schwedes, Scott	WR	6-0	174	23	Syracuse
50	Shipp, Jackie	LB	6-2	236	26	Oklahoma
25	Smith, Mike	CB	6-0	175	26	Texas-El Paso
70	Sochia, Brian	NT	6-3	274	27	NW Okla. St.
57	Stephenson, Dwight	C	6-2	258	31	Alabama
23	Stradford, Troy	RB	5-9	191	24	Boston College
10	Stock, Don	QB	6-5	225	38	Virginia Tech
24	Thompson, Reyna	CB	5-11	194	25	Baylor
76	Toth, Tom	G	6-5	275	26	Western Michigan
95	Turner, T.J.	DE	6-4	275	25	Houston

DRAFTIES

rd.	name	pos.	ht	wt	college
1	Kumerow, Eric	DE	6-6	249	Ohio State
2	Williams, Jarvis	S	5-11	193	Florida
3	Edmunds, Ferrell	TE	6-5	243	Maryland
4	Johnson, Greg	G	6-4	339	Oklahoma
5	Thomas, Rodney	CB	5-10	197	Bingham Young
6	Bratton, Melvin	RB	6-0	225	Miami
7	Cooper, George	RB	6-1	261	Ohio State
8	Bel, Kerwin	QB	6-2	211	Florida
9	Galbreath, Harry	OT	6-1	277	Tennessee
10	Cheek, Louis	OT	6-6	275	Texas A&M
11	Cross, Jeff	DE	6-4	253	Missouri
12	Jackson, Artis	NT	6-4	308	Texas Tech
13	Kelleher, Tom	RB	6-1	230	Holy Cross
14	Kinchen, Brian	TE	6-2	231	LSU

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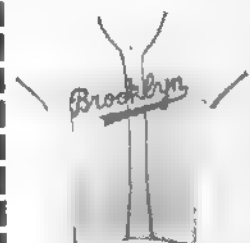
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| <input type="checkbox"/> CARDINALS <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Navy/Red | <input type="checkbox"/> SEATTLE PILOTS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> REDS <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Pin-Stripe | <input type="checkbox"/> MILWAUKEE BRAVES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WHITE SOX <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Red | <input type="checkbox"/> RED SOX Red/Navy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENATORS <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Navy | Many more in stock! |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> DODGERS | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILLIES | <input type="checkbox"/> NEW YORK (Mets) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BOSTON | <input type="checkbox"/> SENATORS | <input type="checkbox"/> NEW YORK (Yankees) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BROWNS | <input type="checkbox"/> WHITE SOX | <input type="checkbox"/> KNIGHTS (from movie the Natural) |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> SEATTLE PILOTS | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILLIES | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILA A's | <input type="checkbox"/> MILW BRAVES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WAHOO INDIANS | <input type="checkbox"/> N Y GANTS | <input type="checkbox"/> L A ANGELS | <input type="checkbox"/> STL BROWNS |
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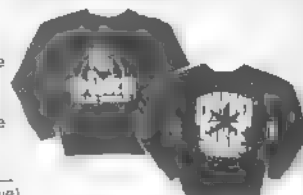
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sweatshirts \$21.95 each | |
| Sizes <input type="checkbox"/> Small <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Large <input type="checkbox"/> XLarge | |
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Teams Wanted:

(See listing below for schools available.)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> DUKE | <input type="checkbox"/> KENTUCKY | <input type="checkbox"/> NEBRASKA | <input type="checkbox"/> PITTSBURGH |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> GEORGIA | <input type="checkbox"/> MIAMI | <input type="checkbox"/> OHIO STATE | <input type="checkbox"/> SYRACUSE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GEORGETOWN | <input type="checkbox"/> MICHIGAN | <input type="checkbox"/> OKLAHOMA | <input type="checkbox"/> TEXAS |
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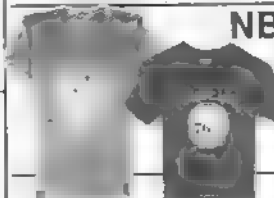
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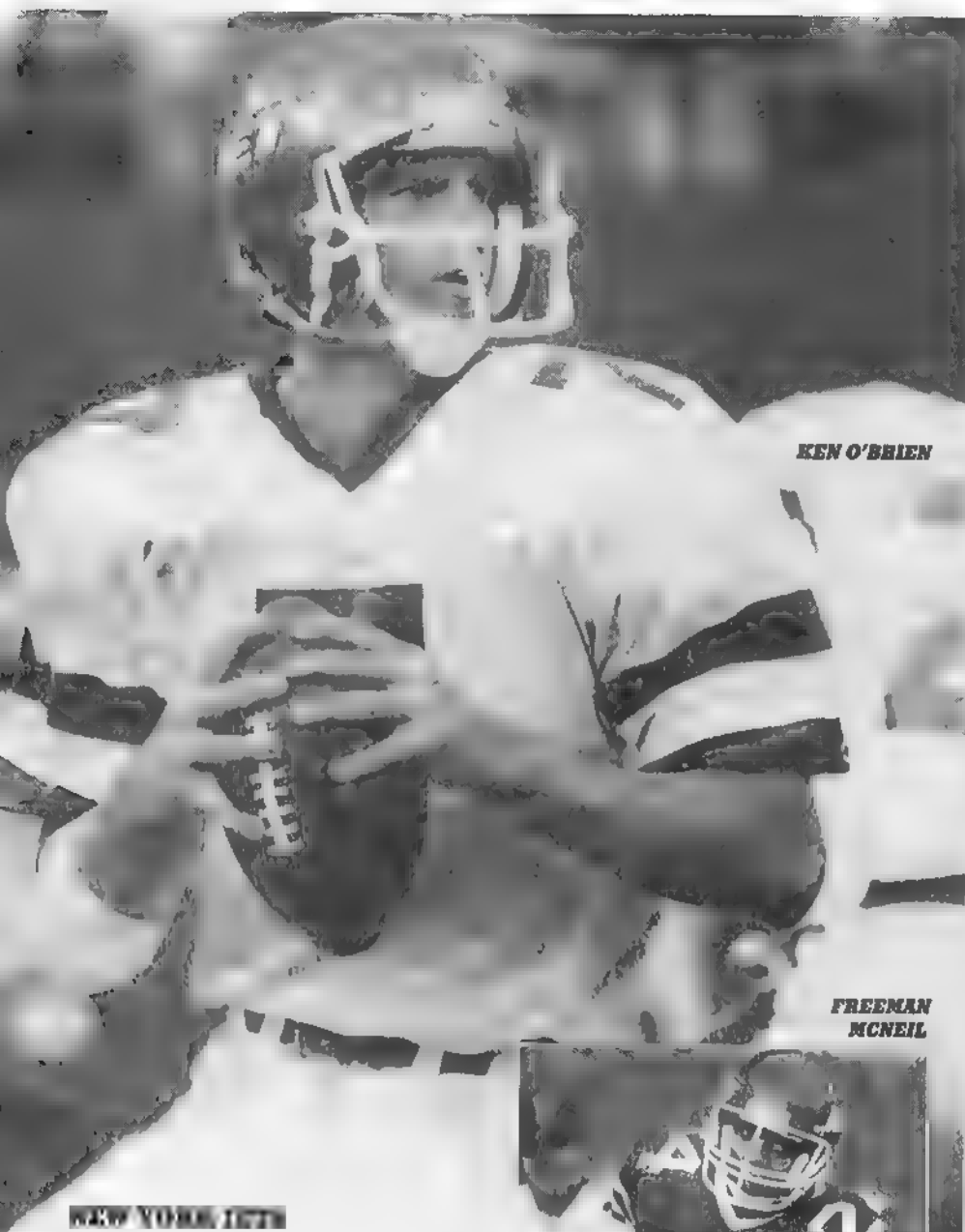
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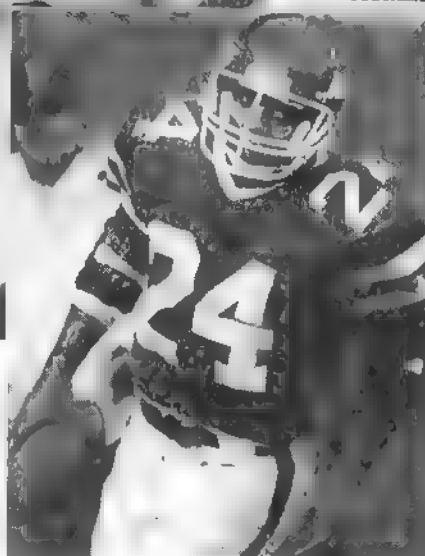
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NEW YORK JETS

Leon Hess, the Jets' owner, gave his coach Joe Walton, an authentic vote of confidence after the 1987 season. The team was virtually fired and the coach retained Joe Klecko, possibly the most illustrious defensive player in the history of the franchise, was released because of medical reasons, but against his wishes. His leaving was rancorous and unpopular with the press and the Jet fans. Also jettisoned was center Joe Fields, once the spiritual leader of the offense.

Freeman McNeil, the heart of the running game, has seen his best days. Russell Carter, once the Jets' prize young defensive back, was offered in a trade to Indianapolis. The deal fell through when Carter flunked his physical. Mark Gastineau's notable feat of the last two seasons was to romance the former wife of actor Sylvester Stallone in the gossip columns. Gastineau, who was the most feared pass rusher in the American Conference, is now a cartoon of himself on the field.

The Jets are a team in trouble. Their final game against the Giants was a miniature of

their woes. They couldn't run the ball and they couldn't stop the run. They couldn't rush Phil Simms, the Giants' passer, and they couldn't protect their own. The game was over in the second quarter when the Giants scored 17 points on their way to a 20-7 victory.

Will things change quickly? Not judging by the work of the Jet personnel department in the last few drafts. The organization's hopes

1987 DRAFT PICKS						
rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
60	Alexander, Dan	OL	6-4	274	33	LSU
97	Baldwin, Don	DE	6-3	263	24	Purdue
98	Baldwin, Tom	DT	6-4	270	27	Tulsa
63	Banker, Ted	OL	6-2	275	27	SE Missouri
31	Barber, Marion	FB	6-3	228	29	Minnesota
54	Benson, Troy	LB	6-2	235	25	Pittsburgh
64	Bingham, Guy	OL	6-3	260	30	Montana
23	Bligen, Dennis	RB	5-11	215	26	St. John's
27	Carter, Russell	CB	6-2	195	26	SMU
59	Clifton, Kyle	LB	6-4	236	26	TCU
50	Crable, Bob	LB	6-3	230	29	Noire Dame
22	Dyles, Sean	CB	5-10	170	24	Bowling Green
52	Elam, Onzy	LB	6-2	225	24	Tennessee St.
30	Faola, Nuu	RB	5-11	210	24	Hawaii
8	Flick, Tom	QB	6-2	190	30	Washington
98	Foster, Jerome	OL	6-2	275	28	Olio State
99	Gastineau, Mark	DE	6-5	255	32	E. Central Okla.
35	Glenn, Kerry	CB	5-9	175	26	Minnesota
55	Gordon, Alex	LB	6-5	245	24	Cincinnati
81	Griggs, Billy	TE	6-3	230	26	Virginia
79	Haight, Mike	OL	6-4	270	26	Iowa
39	Hamilton, Harry	S	6-0	195	26	Penn State
84	Harper, Michael	WR	5-10	180	27	Southern Cal
51	Haslett, Jim	LB	6-3	236	32	Indiana (PA)
34	Hector, Johnny	RB	5-11	200	28	Texas A&M
47	Holmes, Jerry	CB	6-2	175	31	West Virginia
28	Howard, Carl	DB	6-2	190	27	Rutgers
48	Humphrey, Bobby	DB	5-10	180	27	New Mexico St.
69	Klover, Rocky	TE	6-3	230	29	Montana
5	Leahy, Pat	K	6-0	193	37	St. Louis
21	Lewis, Sid	CB	5-11	180	24	Penn State
26	Lyles, Lesler	S	6-3	218	26	Virginia
93	Lyons, Marty	OL	6-5	269	31	Alabama
86	Martin, Tracy	WR	6-3	205	24	North Dakota
57	McArthur, Kevin	LB	6-2	245	25	Lamar
60	McElroy, Reggie	T	6-6	275	28	West Texas St.
24	McNeil, Freeman	RB	5-11	214	29	UCLA
56	Mehl, Lance	LB	6-3	233	30	Penn State
94	Mersereau, Scott	DE	6-3	278	23	Connecticut
36	Miano, Rich	S	6-0	200	26	Hawaii
58	Monger, Matt	LB	6-1	238	27	Oklahoma St.
77	Nichols, Gerald	DT	6-2	261	24	Florida St.
7	O'Brien, Ken	DB	6-4	206	28	Cal-Davis
25	Radachowsky, George	S	5-11	190	26	Boston College
92	Rose, Ken	LB	6-1	215	27	Nevada-Las Vegas
10	Ryan, Pat	QB	6-3	210	33	Tennessee
82	Shuler, Mickey	TE	6-3	231	32	Penn State
87	Sohn, Kurt	WR	5-11	180	31	Fordham
53	Sweeney, Jim	OL	6-4	275	26	Pittsburgh
88	Toon, Al	WR	6-4	205	25	Wisconsin
83	Townsell, JoJo	WR	5-9	180	28	UCLA
43	Vick, Roger	FB	6-3	232	24	Texas A&M
85	Walker, Wesley	WR	6-0	182	33	California
38	Zornich, Mike	S	5-11	207	25	Penn State

DRAFT PICKS

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Cadigan, David	T	6-3	276	Southern Cal
2	Williams, Terry	CB	5-10	192	Bethune-Cookman
3	McMillan, Erik	DB	6-2	199	Missouri
3	Hasty, James	S	5-11	200	Washington State
5	Whitcomb, Mike	OT	6-5	294	Fresno State
6	Fraser, Paul	DT	6-5	262	Syracuse
7	Patton, Gary	RB	5-8	185	Eastern Michigan
8	Newbert, Keith	TE	6-5	240	Nebraska
9	Tamm, Ralph	OG	6-3	275	West Chester
10	Booby, John	DB	6-0	175	TCU
11	Galvin, John	LB	6-1	210	Boston College
12	Goss, Albert	DT	6-7	355	Jackson State

now are with the passing of Ken O'Brien to wide receiver Al Toon and tight end Mickey Shuler and little else.

O'Brien threw for 2,696 yards, 13 touchdowns, and just eight interceptions in 393 passes. His 2.0 interception ratio was the lowest by any starter in the league. It is a deceptive figure, however. O'Brien is faulted for hanging on to the ball far too long, rather than

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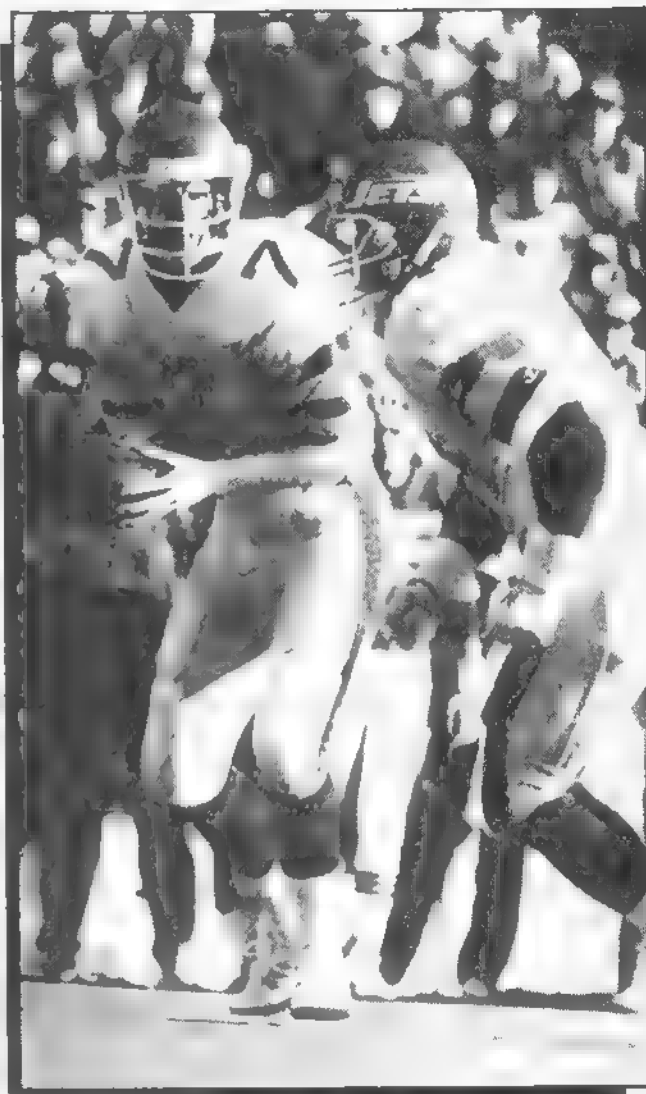
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AFC Coast

taking necessary risks. The Jets allowed their quarterbacks to be sacked 66 times last season. The AFC average was 35.5. O'Brien was blamed for a large number of those sacks, even though it is acknowledged that the Jets had offensive line difficulties.

Toon led the AFC with 68 catches, five of which he turned into touchdowns. His per-catch average was 14.4 yards, all the more impressive since Wesley Walker missed the last seven games due to a shoulder injury and caught just nine passes all season. The best the Jets could come up with as a partner for



Toon was journeyman Kurt Sohn. The defenses collapsed all over Toon. The Jets did not draft a wide receiver and there is no young developing star on the roster. It would be folly to depend on a miracle comeback for Walker, who is 33. Shuler, the 11-year tight end, is no kid at 32, but he has been amazingly durable and last year caught 43 passes. O'Brien looks for him when he is in trouble.

If the Jets took any steps to cure some of their ills, it was in the offensive line. The first-round draft choice was 280-pound Dave Cadigan, the prototype Southern California line-man who should be able to walk into most NFL lineups and start. Certainly he will start for the Jets, freeing Jim Sweeney to return to his more natural position on center. Cadigan solves two problems, since Sweeney, a mediocre tackle, is a far better center than the incumbent, Guy Bingham. Cadigan, well schooled in pass blocking, dominated in college as a run blocker. Mike Haight, the disappointing No. 1 draftee of two years ago, has been given left guard. Veterans will fill the other positions. Reggie McElroy at right tackle and Dan Alexander at right guard.

The Jets may try to coax another year out of Freeman McNeil, who finished 14th in the AFC with 530 yards. That was good enough to lead the team. It might be wiser to send Johnny Hector behind the realigned front. He had 11 touchdowns rushing, averaged 3.9 yards, and caught 32 passes. Roger Vick, last year's top draftee, was a disappointment mostly be-

JETS 1987 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Leahy, 85 points on 31 extra points and 18 field goals.
RUSHING—McNeil, 530 yards on 121 carries, 4.4 avg. 14th
PASSING—O'Brien, 234 of 399 attempts for 2,696 yards and 13 TDs. 8th
RECEIVING—Toon, 68 receptions for 976 yards, 14.4 avg. 5 TDs. 1st
INTERCEPTIONS—Howard, 3 for 29 yards, 9.7 avg. 28th
Hamilton, 3 for 25 yards, 8.3 avg. 30th
Miami, 3 for 24 yards, 8.0 avg. 31st
PUNTING—Jennings, 64 punts, 38.2 avg. longest, 58 yards. 13th
PUNT RETURNS—Townsend, 32 for 381 yards, 11.4 avg. 3rd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Humphrey, 18 for 357 yards, 19.8 avg. unranked

August 6 at Philadelphia (N)
13 at N.Y. Giants (N)
18 Cleveland (at Montreal, Canada, N)
27 vs. Green Bay (at Madison)

1988 SCHEDULE

		1987 SCORES
September	4 at New England	20-42
	11 at Cleveland	—
	18 HOUSTON	—
	25 at Detroit	—
October	2 KANSAS CITY	—
	9 at Cincinnati	27-20
	17 BUFFALO (N)	14-17
	23 at Miami	28-37
	30 PITTSBURGH	—
November	6 at Indianapolis	0-6
	13 NEW ENGLAND	43-24
	20 at Buffalo	31-28
	27 MIAMI	(OT) 37-31
December	4 at Kansas City	16-9
	10 INDIANAPOLIS	14-19
	18 NEW YORK GIANTS	7-20

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NICKY SHULER

cause of his inability to pick up the cerebral aspect of the game. He didn't show much physical y either, since his longest run was 14 yards and he averaged just 3.3 per carry

As usual, place-kicker Pat Leahy was a big part of the New York offense. He missed only four of 22 field goals. Leahy enters his 15th season and timing remains his game

Remember the "New York Sack Exchange?" It is in an extended bull market. Klecko is gone, defensive tackle Marty Lyons

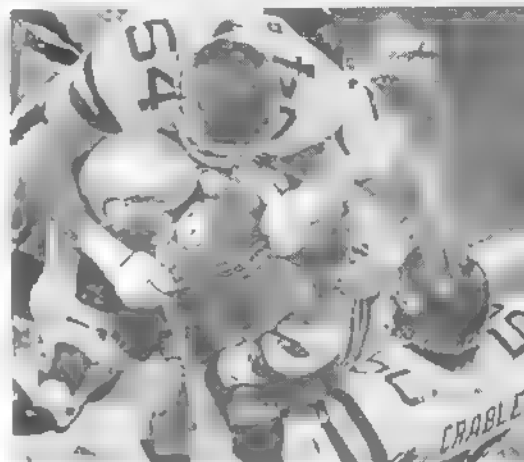
is all but gone, and Gastineau is just a memory of his former self. The Jets had only 29 sacks in 1987, five of those by rookie line-backer Alex Gordon. No defensive linemen were drafted. Barry Bennett, another vet on the line, was released during the offseason. Gerald Nichols, a rookie nose tackle, faded later in the season. Scott Mersereau, another first year nose tackle, had a few moments. This is an emergency area for the Jets.

The draft can cure only so many departments at one time, and this time there was concentration on defensive backs to repair an extremely weak secondary. After the selection of Cadigan, the Jets picked Terry Williams of Bethune-Cookman, Eric McMillan of Missouri, and James Hasty of Washington State. Williams didn't play a lot until his senior year, but he's still good enough to be listed as a starting corner from day one. Hasty wasn't rated nearly as high, but he doesn't have to be an all-pro to beat out the players the Jets have been using. McMillan, a safety, has impressive physical tools, but a number of scouts labeled him overrated. Even so, considering the Jets' quandary he, too, may be a starter. The best of the returnees are safeties Harry Hamilton and Lester Lyles, although Lyles is trying to recover from various injuries. Cornerback Kerry Glenn is attempting to come back from a serious knee injury.

The most dependable defensive area is the linebacking, where Gordon, while not in the Cornelius Bennett-Shane Conlan-Brian Bos-

worth class, made an impact for the Jets last year as a rookie. Walton needs a beated impact from pro sophomore Onzy Elam. Troy Benson and Kyle Clifton are journeyman inside linebackers, Bob Crable a cut above that on the outside. Lance Mehl will try to come back after another knee injury, but it's a surprise he wasn't let go along with K. Ecko.

JoJo Townsell averaged 11.9 yards returning punts, including one for a 91-yard TD. The kickoff returns were nothing special and the Jets are in the market for a new punter, Dave Jennings having been dismissed.



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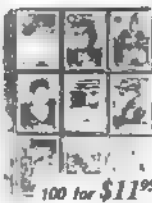
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CANADIAN



by RICK MATSUMOTO
TORONTO STAR

● A reporter for a Montreal newspaper flew to Toronto two days before the scheduled opener of the 1987 Canadian Football League season between the Alouettes and Argonauts. Originally from Toronto, he decided to spend some time visiting his family. Unfortunately, the young scribe didn't bother to turn on a radio or a television the next morning. Nor had he informed his office of his whereabouts. Had he done so he would not have received the shock of his career when he arrived at Exhibition Stadium that afternoon to do an advance story of the next night's game.

To his bewilderment he found the marquee atop the stadium reading: *Winnipeg Blue Bombers vs. Toronto Argonauts, Thursday, 8 P.M.* He marched into the Argo offices and suggested to a member of the public relations department that, perhaps, someone had erred in putting up the sign. No mistake, he was told. The Alouettes had folded, literally overnight. The league had hurriedly revamped its schedule, moving the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to the Eastern Division and slotting them in place of the Alouettes for the Argos' season opener.

And so, another chaotic CFL season got under way. However, as it has managed to do for the past several years, the league survived that crisis. It went on from that bizarre beginning to enjoy one of its most competitive and entertaining seasons, with teams averaging a record 53 points per game. To top it off, the Grey Cup game, played before a capacity house inside the B.C. Place dome, was a thriller with the Edmonton Eskimos scoring a 38-36 victory over the Argonauts.

As the league prepared for the kickoff to its 1988 season there were no hints of another Alouette situation in the offing. Both the Ottawa Rough Riders and Saskatchewan Roughriders (yes, the CFL has two teams with the same nickname) were rumored to be in serious financial difficulty last year, but the two clubs were very much alive this spring. There was even talk—although it was no more than that—of a possible revival of the Montreal franchise next season.

To try to prevent any other clubs from sinking into a quagmire of financial woes, the league took some drastic legislative steps during the past winter. While the eight remaining clubs seemed to be in position to see themselves through this season, plans had to

be put in place to ensure that their future would be stable. Since money seemed to be at the root of most of the CFL's evils, that's the area the league decided to attack.

"Staying within the means of the league is our biggest goal this season," said commissioner Doug Mitchell, who is entering his final season at the CFL helm.

For years many of the teams had been like consumers on a shopping spree with unlimited credit cards. Such mad behavior had to be controlled. And since some individual club operators, in their blind quest for on-field success, seemed unable to harness their shop-

1987 CFL FINAL STANDINGS

EASTERN DIVISION						
	w	l	pts	off	def	
Winnipeg	12	6	0	24	554	409
Toronto	11	6	1	23	484	427
Hamilton	7	11	0	14	470	509
Ottawa	3	15	0	6	377	598
WESTERN DIVISION						
	w	l	pts	off	def	
British Columbia	12	6	0	24	502	370
Edmonton	11	7	0	22	617	462
Calgary	10	8	0	20	453	517
Saskatchewan	5	12	1	11	364	529

DIVISION SEMIFINALS

Toronto 29 • Hamilton 13

Edmonton 30 • Calgary 16

DIVISION FINALS

Toronto 19 • Winnipeg 3

Edmonton 31 • British Columbia 7

GREY CUP

Edmonton 38 • Toronto 36

ping fever, the league passed legislation to put them on a leash.

Under the new rules the teams are under a \$3 million salary cap. Clubs must not exceed that sum for players' and coaches' salaries, signing bonuses, and training-camp and scouting expenses. To meet that ceiling, players were being asked to take pay cuts of anywhere from \$10,000 to \$100,000 so that the teams could meet the new requirements. Few balked, for it became obvious that non-compliance could toll the death knell of the league. The ones that did were given their release. Economic reality had come to the CFL. Such operational costs as office expenditures, travel, public relations, etc., were not subject to limitations, but most CFL teams traditionally skimped in those areas anyway.

"We just put in legislation restricting spending in competitive areas," said Mitchell.

The plight of the B.C. Lions, which came to light in March, showed just how badly some

teams needed financial guidance. In 1987, the Lions realized \$7 million in gross revenue. Yet they wound up declaring a \$2.9 million loss and found themselves in the B.C. bankruptcy court seeking permission to carry out a refinancing scheme. The Lions, who have been one of the CFL's most successful teams in recent years, had budgeted for an average attendance of 46,000, based on the previous year's figures. However, they watched in horror as it dropped sharply to 36,000 last season. That figure was still the league's highest average attendance, but the Lions also had the highest salary costs. This year the Lions have budgeted for 35,000 fans a game and they did away with their training camp facilities in Kelowna, a picturesque town in the B.C. interior, choosing instead to hold camp at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

The Ottawa Rough Riders were another organization which brought forth a budget more in line with realistic attendance expectations. Last year, the Riders budgeted for an average attendance of 27,000. They missed that target by a whopping 9,000 fans per game. This year the club has set its sights on 17,000. Early season-ticket sales indicated they'll probably equal and perhaps even exceed last year's average. If that happens then the Riders will give themselves a little breathing room. One advantage the Riders have going for them is that the Grey Cup game will be played in Ottawa this November for the first time since 1967, Canada's centennial year. A large incentive to purchase season tickets is that those people will retain the same seats for the Grey Cup.

Filling cold, empty stadium seats with warm, enthusiastic bodies has been a priority with Mitchell ever since he succeeded Jake Gaudaur four years ago. While he realized that aggressive marketing techniques were required to sell the league to doubting fans, Mitchell also understands the importance of television. When he came to office, the league was in the final year of a three-year TV contract which netted it \$33 million. Split nine ways, the TV money meant a healthy income of \$1.3 million per club per year above gate and merchandising receipts. But that revenue source dried up after the 1986 season as Carling-O'Keefe Brewery, which had owned the television rights, declined to stay on as the sponsors. It had outbid its competitors for the rights in 1983, during a period of fierce competition between Canada's major breweries. However, as the "war" ended and O'Keefe dropped to third place among the three major breweries, it decided its promotional money should be spent in other areas besides a floundering football league. Faced with a ma-

for loss of revenue, the CFL established its own network of independent stations which shared telecasts with the government-owned CBC. That arrangement produced a net return of \$450,000 per team last year and Mitchell is confident of a 20-25 percent increase.

"In two years we should be up to a level where teams are realizing \$600,000 to \$700,000 per season," he said.

While that's still half of what it was earning from television two years ago, Mitchell sees it as a more realistic figure. And reality is something the teams must learn to live with if the CFL is to survive.

EASTERN DIVISION

TORONTO ARGONAUTS

(11-6-1) The outlook for 1988 looks a lot rosier for the Argonauts than it did at the start of the last season. But then nothing is ever what you expect with the unpredictable Boatmen.

Last year, for example, was supposed to be a rebuilding effort. After all, they had done a major house cleaning in the offseason, releasing veteran quarterback Condredge Holloway (Tennessee) and defensive back Darrell Wilson (Boise State) to Ottawa, and allowing corner back Carl Brazley and middle linebacker David Marshall to drift away to tryouts in the NFL. On top of that, they found themselves without a first-string quarterback when J.C. Watts (Oklahoma) retired unexpectedly. No one expected the Argos to do much better than third in the East. Yet they went to the Grey Cup game, where they lost, 38-36, to the Eskimos. On the strength of that finish, the Argos should win the Eastern title again this year. We'll see.

There were several reasons for their suc-

cess last year. One was the acquisition of running back Gill Fenerty, a star at Holy Cross who had gone to play in the Italian League. He looked promising enough in training camp that the Argos decided to trade Minter to Ottawa. But an early-season ankle injury hampered him, and it wasn't until the second half rolled around that he began to live up to his billing as "Gill the Thrill." By season's end he had scored 15 touchdowns, finished second in rushing, and accounted for a third of the Argos' offense with 1,335 combined yards. He was an easy choice as Rookie of the Year.

Minter's departure also brought them quarterback Gilbert Renfro (Tennessee State). For some reason (some suspect salary) the quarterback-poor Riders decided he was the most expendable of their young crop of pivots. It's a decision they may regret for years to come. Renfro took over the No. 1 job from rookie John Conger (Pittsburgh), and while he missed a good part of the season with a knee injury, he returned to guide the team down the stretch. He'll go into this season as the starter, while Conger and veteran Dan Barrett (Cincinnati) battle for the backup role.

The Argos will be looking for more production from their wide receivers to take some of the heat Fenerty is sure to feel this year. Slotback Darrell Smith (Ohio Central) was their top receiver with 79 catches for 1,392 yards. However, head coach Bob O'Brien, who won his second Coach of the Year honors, will be seeking similar numbers from at least one of his wide receivers. Ken Joiner (Kentucky State) got off to a good start before a knee injury curtailed his activity. O'Brien is hoping Gene Thomas (Pacific), James Noble (Stephen F. Austin), or Monty Sharpe (Geor-

gia Southern) can give them the deep threat they haven't had since Terry Greer left to try his luck in the NFL.

Defensively, the Argos were happy to welcome back Carl Brazley (Western Kentucky), who failed to catch on with an NFL team. He'll likely replace Darnell Clash (Wyoming) at cornerback. Clash just hasn't been able to return to his pre-knee-injury form. The defense increased its sack total from 43 in '86 to 64 last year. Much of that improvement came about through the additions of nose tackle Jerald Baylis (Southern Mississippi) and middle linebacker Doug Landry (Louisiana Tech). Landry teamed with outside linebackers Willie Pless (Kansas) and Don Moen (UBC) to form one of the best units in the league.

The duo of punter Hank Hiesic and place-kicker Lance Chomyc gives them a strong kicking game.

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS

(12-6) To no one's surprise the Blue Bombers finished first after being displaced to the weaker Eastern Division when the Montreal Alouettes folded without notice on the eve of the 1987 season. But their hopes of gaining a berth in the Grey Cup were dashed when they were upset by Toronto in the division final.

As they head into year two in the East, the Bombers are no longer the favorites to finish on top. That honor now belongs to the Argonauts after the Bombers were hit with the devastating news that veteran quarterback Tom Clements (Notre Dame) had decided to retire to pursue his law career. The No. 1 quarterback job falls, at least temporarily, to second-year man Tom Muecke (Baylor), and that's not a situation the Bombers relish. Without Clements, the attack is substantially weakened.

Still, their receiving corps is the envy of the other eight clubs, wideouts Jeff Boyd (Cal-Fullerton) and James Murphy (Utah State) and slotback Perry Tuttle (Clemson). The Bombers acquiesced to slotback/tight end Nick Arakgi's request to be traded to a club (Ottawa) closer to his Montreal home, so his spot will likely go to Randy Fabi.

Willard Reaves (Northern Arizona) will continue to provide Winnipeg with the CFL's best running game. No one else came close to the 1,471 yards he rushed for last season. The offensive line is aging and both Nick Bastaja and Richard Nemeth are coming off major knee surgery.

The Bombers went into training camp uncertain about the return of three of their mainstays on defense: cornerback Roy Bennett (Jackson State), linebacker Tyrone Jones (Southern), and homebrew rover Scott Fligel (Arizona Western). Bennett and Jones (for the second time) were auditioning with NFL clubs, while Fligel appeared set to sign with the Calgary Stampeders after playing out his option. Losing all three could punch a considerable hole in the Bomber defense.

Otherwise, the Bombers are high on rookie Roderick Calloway (Bishop's College), who is tabbed as the likely successor to Jones at outside linebacker. The rest of the four-man linebacking crew—James West (Texas South-



GILL FENERTY
Toronto

ern), Darrell Patterson (Texas Christian), and Delbert Fowler (West Virginia)—is experienced and talented. If Bennett does catch on with an NFL team, then Ken Pettway (California) will likely move from halfback to the corner. However, Bennie Thompson (Grambling) is still in the running and the Bombers did sign a couple of other corner back candidates in the offseason. Billal Milak, who was a player/coach at Alcorn State last year, impressed the coaches at a free-agent camp to obtain a contract, as did Duane Drisdon (Florida A & M). Canadian Darrell Sampson could move into Pettway's halfback spot, opening up an important position elsewhere on the roster—possibly at slotback.

Winnipeg has always had one of the CFL's better kicking tandems in punter Bob Cameron and place-kicker Trevor Kennerd. But Kennerd, the smallest man in the league at 5-foot-6, faltered last season and he could get a strong challenge from rookie Rob Deluca.

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

(7-11) Age, it seems, has caught up with the Ticats. Just a year after shocking CFL fans with an upset victory over Winnipeg in the 1986 Grey Cup classic, the Ticats stumbled to a sub-500 season, as head coach Al Bruno remained loyal to his veterans. That decision, however, cost the Ticats Selwyn Druin, Doug Landry, and Dan Sellers, all of whom wound up playing vital roles in the success of their arch-rivals the Argonauts.

The Ticats' third-place finish and quick exit from the playoffs sent a signal to general manager Joe Zuger and personnel director Mike McCarthy that they had to start moving out some of the veterans. Gone are linebacker Ben Zambiasi, kicker Bernie Ruoff, offensive tackle John Malinosky, linebacker Leo Ezerins, and defensive back Mark Streeter. Those

departures might be only the beginning of the exodus, especially if the Ticats should get off to a bad start this season.

Replacing declining veterans is one thing. Finding adequate replacements is another. Zuger and McCarthy feel they have located some potentially excellent talent in running backs Melvin Collins (Texas A&M) and Martin Sartin (California Long Beach), who filled in with the San Diego Chargers during the NFL strike, receivers Jason Starge (Cincinnati), Greg Anderson (Alabama State), and Rich Estell (Kansas) and Canadian defensive tackle Tim Lorenz (California State-Santa Barbara).

Still, they will have to show they can get the job done better than someone like Steve Stapler, who at 29 last season caught 85 passes for 1,516 yards (second highest in the league) and 13 touchdowns. Others who will have to prove they can do the job, particularly with consistency, are the three returning quarterbacks: Ken Hobart (Idaho), a rookie sensation in '85; Mike Kerrigan (Northwestern), the hero of the '86 Grey Cup; and Tom Porras, who looked good at times last season, have all had their moments. One of them must step forward to prove he can shine all season.

Defensively, Ken Ford (Texas A&M) will get a chance to fill Zambiasi's large shoes at middle linebacker. In the secondary, third-year man Jim Rockford (Oklahoma) seems ready to become a permanent fixture. Lorenz, 22, could move into the defensive line alongside Grover Covington (Johnson C. Smith), 32, Mike Walker (Washington State), 30, and Rod

Skillman (Missouri). 28. Romel Andrews (Tennessee Martin) is a quest on mark after suffering a knee injury late last season.

Derek Noble and Lee Knight will take over the kicking and punting duties, which were Ruoff's private domain for what seemed like forever. But then, perhaps, too many of the Ticats were around forever.

OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERS

(3-15) The Eastern Riders have to win, it's as simple as that. They averaged a surprising 18,000 fans last season while running up one of the worst records in CFL history. The error which the Rider brass made was one of over-optimism. They budgeted for 27,000 and found themselves in dire straits when they fell 9,000 customers per game short.

This year they've taken a more realistic approach, targeting themselves for 17,000. They'll reach that figure and more if they can muster something—anything—better than three victories in 18 outings. The main reason the Riders fared so poorly last year was a porous defense that gave up 598 points. Compare that with the 307 points given up by the B.C. Lions, the league's stingiest defense.

With those numbers staring at him, coach Fred Glick faces a formidable rebuilding job, one in which he intends to spend more time personally this season. He's also hired former Calgary head coach Ardell Weigandt, who spent a couple of seasons as an assistant coach with the Buffalo Bills. With Lloyd Lewis (Texas A&I) making noises about trying his luck in the NFL, and Canadian Michel Bourgeau (Boise State) talking retirement, Glick approached training camp with only a couple of proven veterans—eight-year starter Greg Marshall (Oregon State) and linebacker Anthony Woodson (Hawaii)—as cornerstones for a newly constructed defense. Cornerbacks Rod Brown (Oklahoma State) and Tommie Williams (Texas A&I) were both rookies last season. A year's experience should help both.

Offensively, the Riders are gambling on a couple of high-profile individuals who were once No. 1 NFL draft picks. Quarterback Art Schlichter, who gained more publicity for his gambling exploits than for his on-field accomplishments with the Baltimore Colts, has been given another chance by the Riders. And the former Ohio State star will be pitching the football to wide receiver Anthony Hancock, a former first-round pick of the Kansas City Chiefs. Can Schlichter, who filed for bankruptcy this spring with debts of \$1 million, rebound from several years of relative non-activity? And just how much Hancock, a former world-class hurdler, has lost of his blazing speed is also a question mark.

One player the Riders can be sure of is Canadian tight end Nick Aragki. The onetime Montreal Alouette, who went to Winnipeg last season in the dispersal draft, was obtained by Ottawa after he sought a trade that would bring him closer to his Montreal home. Besides providing a threat as an inside receiver, Aragki's blocking should improve the Riders' running game.

Cedric Minter (Boise State) will handle the ball-carrying duties unless rookie Orville Lee, a Canadian who was the No. 1 player chosen in the college draft, can step into a starting job. If Schlichter shows he can't do the job, then the signal-calling duties will fall to Todd Dillon (Long Beach) or Jeff Wickersham (Louis-





DAN BASS
Edmonton

siana State) The Riders have also signed Brigham Young rookie Bob Jensen

The Riders lost an offensive threat when Dean Dorsey, one of the league's most consistent kickers, signed with the Philadelphia Eagles. But veteran Ken Clark, who played in the Super Bowl with the Los Angeles Rams, will be back to do the punting.

WESTERN DIVISION

EDMONTON Eskimos

(11-7) The Eskimos always seem to be prepared. Perhaps that's why they've won the Grey Cup as often as they have over the past dozen seasons. Consider their most recent plight and their reactions.

The first blow came when all-Canadian defensive end Stewart Hill (Washington) played out his option and headed for the NFL. General manager Hugh Campbell, the former Houston Oilers coach who returned to Edmonton last season, was prepared. He brought in Brian Warren (Arizona) last year and coach Joe Faragall used him as an outside linebacker. This year Warren will be given a chance to fill Hill's old position. And just in case Warren proves to be a better linebacker than a defensive end, Campbell signed four other end candidates: Howard Wade (Stephen F. Austin), Tom Moskal (Eastern Illinois), Alex Carter (Tennessee State), and Rayotis Perkins (Virginia). Carter and Perkins have NFL experience, having played for the Cleveland Browns and the Dallas Cowboys, respectively, during last year's strike. At least one of that group will likely make the team as a replacement for the Eskimos' other defensive end, Tom Tuinei (Hawaii), who has retired.

While Hill's departure came as no surprise, quarterback Matt Dunigan's (Louisiana Tech) announcement that he wanted to follow in the shoes of Bo Jackson caught the Eskies off guard. With bat and glove in hand the five-year veteran, who had succeeded Warren Moon as the Edmonton quarterback, trundled off to the training camp of the Montreal Expos. But Dunigan's baseball career lasted only five weeks, and he promptly returned to Edmonton. The Eskies wouldn't have been caught short had he made it. Damon Allen (Cal-Fullerton) had filled in for Dunigan off and on for the past three seasons. In fact, there were suggestions that Dunigan might be traded to make room for Allen, the younger brother of Los Angeles Raiders' running back Marcus Allen, as the starter. The Eskimos have a third quarterback in the wings in Tracy Ham (Georgia Southern).

The Eskimos also lost defensive tackle Dan Mandarich (Kent State), who decided he wanted to give the NFL a shot. They wasted no time in replacing him by sending veteran offensive lineman Leo Blanchard to the Lions in exchange for import defensive tackle Brent "the Toaster" Williams (Austin Peay). The Eskimos did suffer one unexpected setback when wide receiver Brian Kelly (Washington State), the CFL's all-time reception leader, with 97 touchdowns and 11,169 yards, retired in early April. Henry "Gizmo" Williams (East Carolina), who was the talk of the CFL with his sensational punt returns, could get an opportunity to step into Kelly's spot. That's provided Faragall feels he can afford to take the risk of not having the Gizmo at his well-rested best to run back punts. Last season, Williams returned 80 punts an average of 11.9 yards.



The backfielders are of such quality that four Canadians will handle the positions. The Eskimos weren't even expected to bring an import to camp. The line is getting older but better. Veteran import Rudy Phillips (North Texas State), a former Schenley winner, will move from tackle to guard to fill the hole created by the trade of Blanchard.

Defensively, behind the revamped front, the linebackers led by eight-year veteran Dan Bass (Michigan State) are tough and mobile. The secondary of Steve Benjamin (Northridge State) and Stanley Blair (Southeast Oklahoma) on the corners, Ron Howard (Tennessee) and Don Wilson (North Carolina State) at safeties, and Canadian Junior Robinson at rover is as strong as any in the league.

CALGARY STAMPEDERS

(10-8) The Stampeders have to do a Ben Johnson imitation this season and burst out of the starting blocks. They won't stand a chance either on the field or at the turnstiles if they don't get off to a fast start.

Last year, the Stamps got off to a horrendous 1-6 beginning. That caused attendance figures to take a plunge and cost coach Bob Vespaziani his job. Actually, the Stampeders had won their second game when Vespaziani was given the boot. At the conclusion of a last-minute, 29-28 victory over the Ottawa Rough Riders, the Stampeders presented assistant



coach Larry Kuharich with the game ball. That told general manager Jim Silye all he had to know about Vespaziani's relationship with his players. He gave Vespaziani the hook and turned the reins over to Kuharich. The move proved to be the right one as the Stampeders posted a 6-2 record the rest of the way.

Even with the support of his players, Kuharich is not going to find the task of moving the Stampeders into serious contention for the West Division title unless quarterbacks Rick Worman (Eastern Washington) and Rich Johnston (Eastern Illinois) prove they have overcome the serious injuries they suffered last season. Worman, who took over after Johnson suffered a pinched nerve in his shoulder, suffered a fractured fibula and a broken ankle in a late-season mishap. As late as March he was reported still far from fully recovered. Johnston, on the other hand, has recuperated, and the chore facing him was to return to his 1986 form.

Whichever quarterback is calling the Stampeders signals this season will have a solid offense with which to work. Running back Gary Allen (Hawaii) proved to be one of the CFL's best ball carriers, picking up 857 yards. Slotback Emanuel Tolbert (Southern Methodist) is a valuable receiver while Larry Willis (Fresno State) provides a deep threat.

Defensively, the front four, led by veteran Vince Goldsmith (Oregon State) and tackle Harold Hallman (Auburn), is small, quick, and aggressive. The Stamps are looking to second-year man Kent Warnock to step into the right defensive-end spot ahead of Eugene Belliveau. The secondary is strong and experienced with Ron Hopkins (Murray State), Richie Hall (Colorado State) and Larry Hogue (Utah State). It was strengthened even further when the Stamps signed rover Scott Flagel, who played out his option with Winnipeg.

While the Stampeders were attempting to get straightened out on the field, their front office erupted in chaos in late March. Jim Silye, the community-owned club's volunteer president and a former player, resigned after a squabble with the new board chairman Bill McKay. The latter publicly blamed Silye for the Stamps' \$750,000 loss last year. The disruptive infighting finally ended when Normie Kwong, the Hall of Famer who was born in Calgary but reached stardom as the hard-running fullback of the Edmonton Eskimos of the 1950s known as the "China Clipper," agreed to take over as president in mid-April, a scant two months before the club was due to go to training camp. Kwong, who is a part owner and board member of hockey's Calgary Flames, said he hoped to bring his experience as an executive in that sport to running the Stamps.

He'll need that and more if he is to sail a steady course through the troubled waters of Calgary's football scene.

SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS

(5-12-1) There was a minor rebellion in Saskatchewan a couple of seasons ago when the Roughies missed the playoffs for the 10th straight year. Fans who had long been described as the most loyal supporters in the land, said enough is enough and turned their backs on their beloved Riders.

Well, as season-ticket sales plummeted and costs rose, the Roughriders found themselves in a Catch-22 situation. They came close to closing down one of the proudest franchises in professional sports. Only some fine maneuvering by newly installed general manager Bill Baker, a former CFL player, kept the Riders from going under. He began to trim salaries before the rest of the league thought of it and made moves which convinced the fans there was a genuine rebuilding program.

Apparently the fans believe in Baker. Or else they've come to the realization that there is, indeed, nothing else to do in Saskatchewan except go out and watch the Roughriders. Whatever the reason, fan support improved last season despite the fact the Riders missed the playoffs once again. Now all they have to do to keep the fans coming back is win. The Riders are showing signs of improvement. And with management problems in Calgary and the Lions losing several of their top players, this might just be the year the Riders finally end their playoff drought.

Quarterbacking, which has been the team's biggest problem since Ron Lancaster retired more than a decade ago, remains the team's Achilles' heel. Tom Burgess (Colgate) will start the season as No. 1, but Jeff Bentrm (North Dakota State) and Kent Austin (Mississippi), who joined the Riders late last year after a brief fling with the St. Louis Cardinals, will provide competition. Sources say the Riders made overtures to the Eskimos for the rights to Matt Dunigan, just in case he failed in his bid for a baseball career. But the Eskimos won't let him get away until they're satisfied their own situation is stable. And if they do decide to give up Dunigan, then it's going to cost the Riders a handsome price.

The Riders have improved their receiving corps with Ray McDonald (Florida), a late NFL cut last year, joining Donald Narcisse (Texas Southern) as the wideouts. Canadian Ray Elgaard (Utah) continues to be one of the finest homebrew inside receivers. The Riders could go to an all-Canadian backfield, which would leave import running back Tim McCray (Tuane) out of work.

Defensively, the Riders are thin on Canadian talent among the front four following the retirement of Nick Hebeuer. Controversial James Curry (Nevada-Reno) and Bobby Jurasin (Northern Michigan) can cause a lot of headaches for opposing quarterbacks. The linebacking corps led by Eddie Lowe (Alabama) is solid, as is the secondary, where only Norris Gibb's (Southern) knee injury is of some concern.

Dave Ridgway will continue to provide the Riders with a strong kicking game.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LIONS

(12-6) The Lions made a bold move last fall when they fired head coach Don Matthews with four games remaining in the schedule. Matthews had guided the Lions to the Grey Cup, just two years earlier and the club had been strong contenders in each of the four seasons he was at the helm. But after three straight mid-season losses, general manager Joe Gaat made his move in hopes of salvaging the season. The Lions responded by winning their final four games of the regular season and edging out the Edmonton Eskimos for

first place. The bubble burst, however, when the Lions were beaten by the Eskimos in the Western Division finals.

Coach Larry Donovan, who replaced Matthews, will face a formidable task in trying to finish on top of the division again. Quarterback Roy DeWalt (Texas-Arlington), who, like many high-priced players in the CFL, was asked to take a substantial cut from his reported salary of \$280,000, has taken the club to court over the alleged non-payment of a \$50,000 signing bonus. If the matter can be settled amicably, DeWalt could conceivably return to the Lions. But he's been seeking employment in the NFL, and the consensus is that he won't be back.

That leaves Donovan with aging Toronto Argonauts castoff Condredge Holloway (Tennessee) as his No. 1 pivot. Holloway was named the CFL's outstanding player five years ago, but age (34) and a series of injuries have reduced the mobility which made him so effective. They were also negotiating with University of Minnesota quarterback Rickey Foggie, but even if they were to sign him, he'd be a ever-so-green rookie. Other quarterbacks under contract include former Montreal Alouettes

Brian Ransom and Mark Stevens.

The Lions' once-vaunted offense has lost much of its power. They are especially weak at running back, where Ray Strong and Kevin Dixon are the incumbents. Jim Sandusky (San Diego State) can still provide excitement at one wide-receiver position, but the club still hasn't recovered from the defection of Mervyn Fernandez to the NFL.

Defensively, the Lions remain tough. The line will welcome back James "Quick" Parker (Wake Forest), who missed all of last season with a knee injury, and Gregg Stumon (Southern Arkansas) at the ends, with Walter Ballard (Texas El Paso) moving to tackle. The other tackle position became wide open when Brent "the Toaster" Williams was dealt to the Eskimos in the offseason for Canadian offensive lineman Leo Blanchard. The linebacking corps is aging and the loss of rover Nelson Martin will weaken the secondary.

Another major loss for Donovan will be that of Lui Passaglia, one of the CFL's finest punters and place-kickers. The veteran balked at a pay cut and was seeking work in the NFL. The departure of Passaglia and DeWalt might be too much for the Lions to overcome.



MOONSTRUCK IN HOUSTON

continued from page 90

the NFL with 1,922 combined yards. With running back Mike Rozier rushing to the Pro Bowl with 957 yards, the Oilers' offense finally was a force with which to contend.

"The basic thing I got out of last year," Moon admitted, "was confidence and assertiveness. I believed more in the offense. In the past, I was never able to completely grasp what we were doing offensively because we were always changing philosophies. Keeping the same philosophy and just adding to it last year helped me a lot."

It was obvious to everyone. "The biggest change in him last year was his confidence," Jones agreed. "That comes with success and he had a lot of success last year. He did all the things winning quarterbacks do. He has a system he can excel in now and it is giving him the opportunity to show more what he can do. When he got some success, it just snowballed. Once he started throwing some big passes to win games, then his team, the fans, and the whole city began to have a different feel about the guy. Everyone believes in him now."

Including Glanville, who said, "Warren just keeps getting better and better. He was the key to us climbing out of that [losing] hole. Down the stretch, he was really something."

The biggest change in him was his competitive spirit. He just would never give up and that affected the whole team. He's at least twice the leader now than he was before."

That leadership helped the Oilers finish 9-6 and go to the playoffs for the first time since 1980. They beat Seattle, 23-20, in overtime of their first game, then lost at Denver, 34-10. For the youngest team in the NFL (average age 25.7 years), it was a tremendous boost for morale after six straight losing seasons.

"We got a lot out of last year," center Jay Pennison said. "Every game we won gave us a little more confidence and assurance that we were for real. I was in training camp with the Redskins the year after they won the [1983] Super Bowl. They had such confidence, they thought they would win every time out. The thing that stuck out to me my first couple of years here was that we were so young, we didn't know for sure if we could win. The year before, Warren had been kind of a silent leader, but last year he really took charge. When guys would mess up, he'd step in the huddle and say it. And everyone listened. It made a big difference. We began to really believe in him."

Moon, who won a Rose Bowl championship in college at Washington and five Canadian Football League Grey Cups in six years at Edmonton, has only one goal left. At 31, he

has his eyes set on the Super Bowl.

"That would have to be our biggest team goal this time," Moon said. "That's pretty much all there is left for me to accomplish. I don't worry about the all-pro and individual awards. That will come with the success. I just want to go to the Super Bowl, and I think we have the team that can do it."

Glanville, of course, isn't so brash. But he knows this team can no longer be kept under wraps. He believes that is a tribute to its maturity. "I think the key to us last year was that we had enough confidence," he said. "Having those two losses at midseason by big scores [40-7 to the Browns and 51-27 to the Colts] and coming back and winning three of our last four to make the playoffs right after that was the best thing that happened to us."

It didn't hurt for this young team to taste success in the playoffs either. "I think when you win a playoff game, it gives you a mental edge you can't explain," Glanville said. "It's something very few of our players knew about, and that was very good for us."

Glanville also points to the maturation of his million-dollar offensive line, that aggregation of first- and second-round picks like Mike Munchak, Bruce Matthews, and Dean Steinkuhler that has been predicted for stardom for the last four years. Under new coach Kim Helton, the line was more aggressive and immi-

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nently more successful last season. "The offensive line was the best since I've been here," Glanville said.

The wide receivers were another obvious strength, and Glanville expects them to be even better this season with the continued improvement of Haywood Jeffires, a first-round pick last year who didn't live up to expectations (7 catches for 89 yards), and surprise rookie Duncan, who did more than expected (13 for 237). At tight end, Jamie Williams "gives us exactly what we want," Glanville said. "His strengths are that he's a good blocker and an in-crowd receiver. That's what we want out of our tight end."

With Rozier, the Oilers have late-bloomer Alonzo Highsmith, who showed flashes of his first-round brilliance in the playoffs. Highsmith has undergone arthroscopic surgery on his knee twice during the offseason but is expected to be in good condition for 1988. And in this year's draft, they picked up Michigan State's Lorenzo White in the first round, so running back should be another strength.

The big news on the Oilers' defense was an acquisition made just before the draft. They traded their No. 9 pick in the first round for Raiders' defensive end Sean Jones, who had led the AFC in sacks in 1986 with 15½. Under Glanville's tutelage the last four seasons, the defense has steadily improved. In 1985, it

ranked 27th in the league. It jumped to 13th the next year. That slipped to 17th last year when many opponents went to the air in attempts to come from behind. An imposing pass rusher would have made a big difference, since the team's leading sackers were a couple of linebackers (Robert Lyles and Johnny Meads) with five each.

Jones had an offseason last year with only six sacks. "The strike messed me up," he said. "I'm the kind of player who has to play every day. I was very disappointed with last year and I'm glad to be coming here to Houston." The Oilers were more than glad when the Raiders made Jones available. "He is a better player," GM Ladd Herzog said, "than any defensive lineman in the draft."

Now the Oilers may not have to play such a gambling, blitzing defense. That should help cornerbacks Steve Brown and Patrick Allen, who many think could be among the league's best with more help up front. It could turn into an all-star secondary with Pro Bowl strong safety Keith Bostic, who led for the AFC lead with six interceptions last year. Free safety Jeff Donaldson had four.

Glanville believes the statistical slip of the defense was caused by a rash of major injuries. "Our defense was kind of like our offensive line had been in the past with all the injuries," he said. "It caused us to lose continually

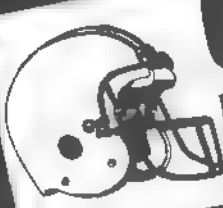
We just need to get back and get healthy."

One who wasn't healthy much of the year was end Ray Childress, another former first-round pick who still managed to lead the linemen in tackles last season. Glanville says that was great considering he played on a broken leg for four weeks that no one knew about. With veteran nose tackle Doug Smith and end Richard Byrd, the Oilers should be tough up front again.

At linebacker, Houston has three veterans back (John Grimsley, Lyles, and Meads) to go with last year's rookie sensation Al Smith, who led the team in tackles. "Captain Video [Lyles] is the heart and soul of the team," Glanville said. "And Meads came back and played last year like he had before his injury in 1986. With Grimsley and Smith inside, we are set very well at linebacker."

The biggest needs are for consistent punting (Houston drafted Michigan State's Greg Montgomery in the third round, the first punter taken) and for better special-teams coverage. And there is a need for more team unity, according to Glanville.

"We need to get back to the esprit de corps we had before the strike," he said. "I don't think any team found that completely after the strike. If we get that and we stay healthy, we've got a team that has a chance to win some big football games."



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RECORDS

Points: 176, Paul Hornung, Green Bay (1960)
Touchdowns: 24, John Riggins, Washington (1983)
Field goals: 35, Ali Haji-Sheikh, New York (1983)
Extra points: 62, Mark Moseley, Washington (1983)

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
San Francisco	59	11	44	4	55	59	16	23	1	459
New Orleans	46	20	23	3	43	46	33	42	2	422
Washington	47	18	27	2	43	47	18	29	0	379
St. Louis	46	15	25	6	44	46	14	27	0	362
Chicago	42	13	23	6	38	42	22	32	0	356
Dallas	38	17	19	2	37	37	25	29	0	340
Philadelphia	40	12	26	2	38	40	19	31	1	337
Minnesota	42	20	21	1	40	41	14	29	1	336
Rams	38	15	16	7	36	38	17	21	1	317
Tampa Bay	33	7	22	4	31	33	19	24	0	286
Giants	32	4	26	2	28	32	20	32	0	280
Detroit	27	9	16	2	27	27	26	39	1	269
Green Bay	28	13	15	0	24	27	21	29	0	225
Atlanta	24	5	17	2	23	24	12	17	1	205

KICKERS

20 or more points	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Andersen, Morten, N.O.	37	37	28	36	121
Ruzek, Roger, Dall.	26	26	22	25	92
Lansford, Mike, Rams	36	38	17	21	87
Butler, Kevin, Chi	28	30	19	28	85
McFadden, Paul, Phil.	36	36	16	26	84
Wersching, Ray, S.F.	44	46	13	17	83
Murray, Ed, Del.	21	21	20	32	81
Alegre, Raul, Giants	25	26	17	27	76
Nelson, Chuck, Minn.	36	37	13	24	75
Haji-Sheikh, Ali, Wash.	29	32	13	19	68
Igwelbuke, Donald, T.B.	24	26	14	18	66
Zendejas, Max, G.B.	13	15	16	19	61
Gaffery, Jim, St.L.	30	31	9	19	57
Del Greco, Al, G.B.-St.L.	19	20	9	16	46
Luckhurst, Mick, Atl.	17	17	9	13	44
Prindie, Mike, Del.	6	6	8	7	24
Brockhaus, Jeff, S.F.	11	13	3	6	20

7 or more points

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	23	1	22	0	138
Quick, Mike, Phil.	11	0	11	0	66
White, Charles, Rams	11	0	0	0	66
Bavaro, Mark, Giants	8	0	8	0	48
Hillard, Dalton, N.O.	8	7	1	0	48
Smith, J.T., St.L.	8	0	8	0	48
Walker, Herschel, Dall.	8	7	1	0	48
Carter, Anthony, Minn.	7	0	7	0	42
Clark, Gary, Wash.	7	0	7	0	42
Dozier, D.J., Minn.	7	5	2	0	42
Ferrell, Earl, St.L.	7	7	0	0	42
Gault, Willie, Chi	7	0	7	0	42
Mandley, Pete, Del.	7	0	7	0	42
Martin, Eric, N.O.	7	0	7	0	42
Anderson, Neal, Chi	6	3	3	0	36
Awalt, Robert, St.L.	6	0	6	0	36
Bryant, Kelvin, Wash.	6	1	5	0	36
Manuel, Lionel, Giants	6	0	6	0	36
Monk, Art, Wash.	6	0	6	0	36
Rogers, George, Wash.	6	6	0	0	36
Tice, John, N.O.	6	0	6	0	36
Tomney, Anthony, Phil.	6	5	1	0	36
Carter, Gerald, T.B.	5	0	5	0	30

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Clark, Dwight, S.F.	5	0	5	0	30
Dixon, Floyd, Atl.	5	0	5	0	30
Fulwood, Brent, G.B.	5	5	0	0	30
Mayes, Rueben, N.O.	5	5	0	0	30
Mitchell, Stump, St.L.	5	3	2	0	30
Payton, Walter, Chi	5	4	1	0	30
Wilson, Mike, S.F.	5	0	5	0	30
Wilson, Wade, Minn.	5	5	0	0	30
Byars, Keith, Phil.	4	3	1	0	24
Carroth, Paul Ott, G.B.	4	3	1	0	24
Craig, Roger, S.F.	4	3	1	0	24
Edwards, Kelvin, Dall.	4	1	3	0	24
Elerson, Gary, Del.	4	3	1	0	24
Green, Roy, St.L.	4	0	4	0	24
James, Garry, Del.	4	4	0	0	24
McAdoo, Derrick, St.L.	4	3	0	1	24
Newsome, Tim, Dall.	4	2	2	0	24
Rathman, Tom, S.F.	4	1	3	0	24
Renfro, Mike, Dall.	4	0	4	0	24
Smith, Jeff, T.B.	4	2	2	0	24
Allen, Anthony, Wash.	3	0	3	0	18
Bailey, Stacey, Atl.	3	0	3	0	18
Blount, Alvin, Dall.	3	3	0	0	18
Brewer, Chris, Chi	3	2	1	0	18
Brim, James, Minn.	3	1	2	0	18
Brown, Ron, Rams	3	0	2	1	18
Carrier, Mark, T.B.	3	0	3	0	18
Cosbie, Doug, Dall.	3	0	3	0	18
Cunningham, Randall, Phil.	3	3	0	0	18
Davis, Kenneth, G.B.	3	3	0	0	18
Ellard, Henry, Rams	3	0	3	0	18
Frank, John, S.F.	3	0	3	0	18
Heller, Ron, S.F.	3	0	3	0	18
Jackson, Kenny, Phil.	3	0	3	0	18
Jones, Mike, N.O.	3	0	3	0	18
Kozlowski, Glen, Chi	3	0	3	0	18
Lewis, Leo, Minn.	3	0	2	1	18
Magee, Calvin, T.B.	3	0	3	0	18
Mathews, Aubrey, Atl.	3	0	3	0	18
McKinnon, Dennis, Chi	3	0	1	2	18
Morris, Joe, Giants	3	3	0	0	18
Neal, Frankie, G.B.	3	0	3	0	18
Novacek, Jay, St.L.	3	0	3	0	18
Sanders, Ricky, Wash.	3	0	3	0	18

RECORDS

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Schroeder, Jay, Wash.	3	3	0	0	18
Stanley, Walter, G.B.	3	0	3	0	18
Adams, George, Giants	2	1	1	0	12
Anderson, Alfred, Minn.	2	2	0	0	12
Baker, Stephen, Giants	2	0	2	0	12
Barney, Milton, Atl.	2	0	2	0	12
Bernard, Karl, Del.	2	2	0	0	12
Beverly, Dwight, N.O.	2	2	0	0	12
Boso, Cap, Chi	2	0	2	0	12
Bradley, Danny, Del.	2	0	2	0	12
Brenner, Hoby, N.O.	2	0	2	0	12
Burbage, Cornell, Dall.	2	0	2	0	12
Campbell, Scott, Atl.	2	2	0	0	12
Carter, Chris, Phil.	2	0	2	0	12
Cribbs, Joe, S.F.	2	1	0	1	12
Dorsett, Tony, Dall.	2	1	1	0	12
Epps, Phillip, G.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Fenney, Rick, Minn.	2	2	0	0	12
Francis, Jon, Rams	2	0	2	0	12
Freeman, Phil, T.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Garity, Gregg, Phil.	2	0	2	0	12
Gentry, Dennis, Chi	2	0	1	1	12
Grymes, Darrel, Del.	2	0	2	0	12
Hill, Bruce, T.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Hill, Lonzeil, N.O.	2	0	2	0	12
Hilton, Car, Minn.	2	0	2	0	12
Johnson, Damone, Rams	2	0	2	0	12
Johnson, Troy, St.L.	2	0	2	0	12
Jones, Hassan, Minn.	2	0	2	0	12
Jordan, Buford, N.O.	2	2	0	0	12
Jordan, Steve, Minn.	2	0	2	0	12
Kramer, Tommy, Minn.	2	2	0	0	12
Lovely, Edwin, Giants	2	0	2	0	12
McDonald, James, Rams	2	0	2	0	12
McMahon, Jim, Chi	2	2	0	0	12
Nelson, Darrin, Minn.	2	2	0	0	12
Rice, Allen, Minn.	2	1	1	0	12
Riggs, Gerald, Atl.	2	1	0	0	12
Robinson, Stacy, Giants	2	0	2	0	12
Spagnola, John, Phil.	2	0	2	0	12
Streater, Eric, T.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Vital, Lionel, Wash.	2	2	0	0	12
Wilson, Ted, Wash.	2	1	1	0	12
Wilson, Wayne, Wash.	2	2	0	0	12
Word, Barry, N.O.	2	2	0	0	12

RUSHING

RECORDS

Carries: 407, James Wilder, Tampa Bay (1984)
Yards: 2,105, Eric Dickerson, Los Angeles (1984)
TDs: 24, John Riggins, Washington (1983)

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
San Francisco	524	2237	4.3	35	11
New Orleans	569	2190	3.8	38	20
Washington	500	2102	4.2	31	18
Rams	512	2097	4.1	58	15
Philadelphia	609	2027	4.0	45	12
Minnesota	482	1983	4.1	72	20
Chicago	485	1954	4.0	138	13
St. Louis	462	1873	4.1	42	16
Dallas	465	1865	4.0	162	17
Green Bay	464	1801	3.9	61	13
Giants	440	1457	3.3	34	4
Detroit	398	1435	3.6	33	9
Tampa Bay	394	1365	3.5	46	7
Atlanta	333	1298	3.9	44	5

10 or more yards	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
White, Charles, Rams	24	314	4.2	58	11
Mayes, Reuben, N.O.	41	317	3.8	38	5
Walker, Herschel, Dal	209	891	4.3	66	7
Riggs, Gerald, Atl	73	875	4.1	44	2
Craig, Roger, S.F.	71	815	3.8	25	3
Mitchell, Stump, St.L.	201	78	3.8	42	3
Morris, Joe, Giants	123	654	3.4	34	3
Nelson, Darrin, Minn.	11	641	4.9	72	2
Rogers, George, Wash	62	611	3.8	29	6
Allen, Steve, Wash	129	586	4.5	138	7
Payton, Walter, Chi	146	573	3.7	17	4
Ferrill, Earl, St	11	571	4.5	35	7
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	123	508	4.1	130	7
Cunningham, Randall, Phil	76	507	6.6	45	3
Waller, James, T.B.	106	488	4.6	21	0
Toney, Anthony, Phi	127	473	3.7	36	5
Dorsett, Tony, Dal	130	456	3.5	24	1
Byars, Keith, Phil	116	426	3.7	30	3
Davis, Kenneth, G.B.	129	413	3.8	139	3
Bryant, Kelvin, Wash	77	406	5.3	28	1
Vital, Lionel, Wash	80	346	4.3	122	2
Jones, James, Del	96	341	3.6	19	0
Anderson, Alfred, Minn	68	319	4.7	21	2
Smith, Jeff, T.B.	100	309	3.1	46	2
Cribbs, Joe, S.F.	70	300	4.3	20	1
Fullwood, Brent, G.B.	84	274	3.3	18	5
James, Garry, Del	82	270	3.3	17	4
Wilson, Wade, Minn	41	263	6.4	38	5
Dozier, D.J., Minn	69	261	3.7	19	5
Rathman, Tom, S.F.	62	257	4.1	35	1
Wilhite, Kevin, G.B.	53	251	4.7	61	0
Griffin, Keith, Wash	62	242	3.9	17	0
McAdoo, Derrick, St.L.	53	230	4.3	17	3
Beatty, Mike, N.O.	62	217	3.5	25	2
Casper, Mike, S.F.	56	211	3.8	57	0
Harris, John, Minn	56	207	3.8	23	0
Ellerson, Gary, Del	47	196	4.2	33	3
Carroll, Paul, Ott, G.B.	64	192	3.0	23	3
Young, Steve, S.F.	26	191	7.3	129	1
Bernard, Ray, Wash	45	187	4.2	14	2
Ferrill, Earl, St	42	181	4.1	12	2
Adams, George, Giants	61	169	2.8	14	1
Haddox, Michael, Phil	59	165	2.8	11	0
Rouson, Lee, Giants	41	155	3.8	14	0
Pelluer, Steve, Dal	25	142	5.7	21	1
Montana, Joe, S.F.	35	141	4.1	29	1
Francis, Jon, Rams	35	138	3.3	23	0
Brown, Reggie, Phi	39	136	3.5	23	0
Fourcade, John, N.O.	19	134	7.1	18	0
Word, Barry, Atl	36	133	3.7	20	2
Rice, Allen, Minn	51	121	2.6	13	1
Hemuli, Laken, Chi	34	128	3.9	12	0
Majkowski, Don, G.B.	5	127	6.1	32	0
Smith, Timmy, Wash	29	126	4.3	5	0



PASSING

RECORDS

Completions: 347, Steve DeBerg, San Francisco (1979)

Touchdowns: 36, Y. A. Tittle, New York (1963)

Yards: 4,614, Neil Lomax, St. Louis (1984)

Longest for TD: 99 yards, Frank Filchock to Andy Farkas, Washington (1939)

99 yards, George Izo to Bobby Mitchell, Washington (1963)

99 yards, Karl Sweetan to Pat Studstill, Detroit (1966)

99 yards, Sonny Jurgensen to Gerry Allen, Washington (1968)

99 yards, Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick, Philadelphia (1985)

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	PCT	TD	LONG	INT	PCT	INT	RAT	NG
Montana, Joe, S.F.	398	266	66.8	3,241	7.67	31	7.8	157	13	3.3	102.1			
Simms, Phil, Giants	282	163	57.8	2,513	7.91	17	6.0	150	4	1.1	88			
Lomax, Neil, St.L.	453	275	59.4	3,867	7.32	24	5.2	57	2	2.7	86.1			
McMahon, Jim, Chi	210	125	59.5	1,819	7.80	12	5.7	159	8	3.4	81.1			
DeBerg, Steve, T.B.	275	159	57.8	1,991	6.88	14	5.1	164	4	1.1	81			
Cunningham, Randall, Phil	406	223	54.3	2,866	6.86	23	5.7	170	12	3.1	81.1			
Hebert, Bobby, N.O.	294	164	55.8	2,111	7.21	15	5.1	67	4	1.1	81.1			
Wilson, Wade, Minn	264	140	53.0	2,146	7.99	14	5.3	173	13	4.9	79			
White, Danny, Dal	362	215	59.4	2,117	7.1	12	3.3	43	1	4	72			
Schroeder, Jay, Wash	167	129	48.5	1,519	7.01	12	4.5	184	12	2.7	72.4			
Everett, Jim, Rams	302	62	5.6	2,064	7.83	10	3.3	181	12	2.7	72.4			
Campbell, Scott, Atl	266	136	51.1	2,111	7.1	11	4.2	144	14	5.4	63.4			
Long, Chuck, Del	476	242	50.8	2,998	6.15	11	2.6	53	20	4.6	63.4			
Wright, Randy, G.B.	247	132	53.4	1,517	6.17	6	2.4	66	1	4.5	61.1			

NON-QUALIFIERS (50 or more attempts)

Young, Steve, S.F.	69	37	53.6	570	8.26	10	14.5	150	6	0.0	120.1
Williams, Doug, Wash	143	81	56.6	1,156	8.38	11	7.7	62	5	1.5	94.1
Hohensee, Mike, Chi	52	28	53.8	347	6.67	4	7.7	28	1	1.9	81.1
Risher, Alan, G.B.	74	44	59.5	564	6.1	3	4.1	146	1	1	81
Fourcade, John, N.O.	89	48	53.9	597	6.11	4	4.5	182	3	1.4	72
Pelluer, Steve, Dal	101	55	54.5	641	6.16	3	3.0	44	7	0	61
Tinsley, Scott, Phil	86	48	55.8	671	7.11	3	3.5	162	4	4.1	71
Majkowski, Don, G.B.	127	55	43.3	875	6.81	5	3.9	170	5	2.4	61
Kramer, Tommy, Minn	81	40	49.4	457	6.52	4	4.9	140	1	3	61
Ditts, Steve, Rams	114	56	49.1	1,046	6.1	5	4.4	51	4	1.1	61.1
Adams, Tony, Minn	89	49	55.1	612	6.1	3	3.4	163	1	1.1	61.1
Tomczak, Mike, Chi	178	97	54.5	1,220	6.85	5	2.8	156	1	1.1	61.1
Horns, Todd, Del	92	43	46.7	541	6.1	5	5.4	51	1	1.1	61.1
Testaverde, Vinny, T.B.	165	71	43.0	1,061	6.51	5	3.0	40	5	1.6	60
Kramer, Erik, Atl	92	45	48.9	554	6.1	4	4.3	33	1	1.1	61.1
Rutledge, Jeff, Giants	155	79	51	1,046	6.1	5	3.2	50	1	1.1	61.1
Milner, Chris, Atl	92	39	42.4	551	6.00	1	1.1	57	1	1.1	61.1

PUNTING

RECORDS

Number: 114, Bob Parsons, Chicago (1981)

Average: 51.4 yards, Sammy Baugh, Washington (1940)

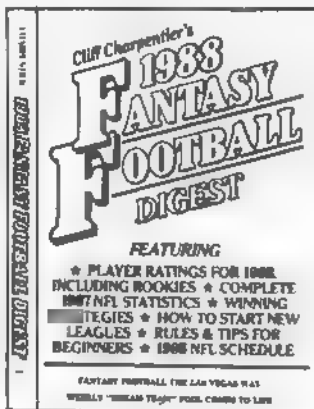
Longest: 94 yards, Joe Linzenich, Chicago (1931)

	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TD	BLK	OPP	RET	IN	NET
Donnelly, Rick, Atl	61	2586	62	44.0	8	2	38	501	9	32.1
Arnold, Jim, Del	46	2007	60	43.6	4	0	22	104	17	39.6
Landeta, Sean, Giants	65	2773	64	42.7	6	1	38	606	13	31.0
Hatcher, Dale, Rams	76	3140	62	41.3	4	1	43	317	19	35.5
Bracken, Don, G.B.	72	2947	65	40.9	5	1	45	354	18	34.2
Cox, Steve, Wash	63	2571	77	40.8	7	1	29	193	14	35.0
Hansen, Brian, N.O.	52	2104	60	40.6	6	0	23	135	19	35.6
Horne, Greg, Cin-St.L.	43	1730	57	40.2	7	0	25	237	6	31.5
Coleman, Greg, Minn	45	1786	54	39.7	3	1	30	323	5	30.5
Saxon, Mike, Dal	68	2685	63	39.5	5	0	36	260	20	34.2
Runager, Max, S.F.	55	2157	56	39.2	7	1	23	167	18	33.0
Garcia, Frank, T.B.	62	2409	58	38.9	5	0	38	553	12	28.3
Teltschik, John, Phil	82	3131	60	38.2	4	1	47	399	13	32.0
Cater, Greg, St.L.	39	1470	68	37.7	2	1	17	204	10	30.7

NON-QUALIFIERS (10 or more punts)

Wagner, Bryan, Chi	36	1461	71	40.6	4	1	12	195	9	32.1
Criswell, Ray, T.B.	26	1046	61	40.2	5	0	12	68	3	33.8
Renner, Bill, G.B.	20	712	49	35.6	1	0	9	68	4	31.2
Scribner, Buck, Minn	20	827	54	41.3	1	0	10	79	4	36.4
Brown, Kevin, Chi	18	742	58	41.2	4	1	11	108	4	29.2
Barnhart, Tommy, N.Y. Chi	17	719	52	42.3	1	0	9	100	6	35.2
Sawyer, Bruce, Atl	16	639	54	39.9	1	0	9	116	1	31.4
White, Mickey, Wash	14	482	51	34.4	1	0	8	38	5	30.3
Moore, Dana, Giants	14	486	46	34.7	0	1	9	154	0	22.1
Bruno, Dave, Minn	13	464	53	35.7	1	0	4	22	2	32.5
Asmus, Jim, S.F.	12	384	51	32.0	1	0	6	28	3	28.0
Reynolds, Mark, Phil	11	431	48	39.2	1	0	6	155	3	23.3
Minter, John, Wash	10	345	53	34.5	1	0	4	51	1	27.4
Jacobs, Dave, Phil	10	398	44	36.9	0	1	5	34	4	30.5

Leader based on gross average, minimum 38 punts



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NFC Statistics

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Blount, Alvin, Dal	46	125	2.7	15	3
Sydney, Harry, S.F	29	125	4.3	15	0
Sanders, Thomas, Chi	23	122	5.3	17	1
Newsome, Tim, Dal	25	121	4.8	124	2
Schroeder Jay, Wash	26	120	4.6	31	1
Robinson, Jacques, Phil	24	114	4.8	18	0
Wester, Cleve, Del	33	113	3.4	14	1
Wright, Adrian, T.B	37	112	3.0	11	0
Williams, Van, Giants	29	108	3.7	17	1
Lomax, Neil, St. L	29	107	3.7	19	0
Campbell, Scott, Atl	21	102	4.9	24	2
Howard, Bobby, T.B	30	100	3.3	31	1
Guman, Mike, Rams	36	98	2.7	7	1
Hebert, Bobby, N.O	13	95	7.3	19	0
Griffin, Bob, Giants	25	90	3.6	14	1
Sargent, Broderick, St. L	18	90	5.0	16	1
McMahon, Jim, Chi	22	88	4.0	13	2
Thomas, Calvin, Chi	25	88	3.5	18	0
Badanek, Rick, Atl	29	87	3.0	31	1
Woolley, Ron, St. L	26	87	3.3	8	1
Be, Greg, Buff Rams	22	86	3.9	13	0
Everett, Jim, Rams	18	83	4.6	15	1
Varajan, Mike, S.F	18	82	4.6	11	0
Woolfolk, Bulch, Del	12	82	6.8	31	0
Mosley, Anthony, Chi	18	80	4.4	16	0
Ricks, Harold, T.B	24	76	3.2	14	1
Ga, breath, Tony, Giants	10	74	7.4	17	0
Sette, John, Atl	19	72	3.8	12	0
Alexander, Vincent, N.O	21	71	3.4	16	1
Wright, Randy, G.B	13	70	5.4	27	0
Edwards, Stan, Del	32	69	2.2	13	0
Hold, Mike, T.B	7	69	9.9	35	0
Tautalalasi, Junior, Phil	26	69	2.7	17	0
Cherry, Tony, S.F	13	65	5.0	16	1
Long, Chuck, Del	22	64	2.9	15	0
Risher, Alan, G.B	11	64	5.8	15	1
Monk, Art, Wash	6	63	10.5	26	0
Edwards, Kelvin, Dal	2	61	30.5	162	1
Flowers, Kenny, Atl	14	61	4.4	14	0
Carlton, Maurice, Giants	26	60	2.3	10	0
Hohensee, Mike, Chi	9	56	6.2	26	0
Brewer, Chris, Chi	24	55	2.3	16	2
Wilson, Wayne, Wash	18	55	3.1	11	2
Ross, Alvin, Phil	14	54	3.9	12	1
Tomeczak, Mike, Chi	18	54	3.0	10	1
Rice, Jerry, S.F	8	51	6.4	17	1
Testaverde, Vinny, T.B	13	50	3.8	17	1
Adams, David, Dal	7	49	7.0	127	1
Hons, Todd, Del	5	49	9.8	23	1
Williams, Michael, Atl	14	49	3.5	9	0
Hardy, Andre, S.F	7	48	6.9	14	1
Rodgers, Del, S.F	11	46	4.2	15	1
Slevens, Mark, S.F	10	45	4.5	16	1
Kramer, Tommy, Minn	10	44	4.4	15	1
Simms, Phil, Giants	14	44	3.1	20	0
Tyrell, Tim, Rams	11	44	4.0	13	0
Gentry, Dennis, Chi	6	41	6.8	12	0
Hargrove, Jimmy, G.B	11	38	3.5	7	1
Stanley, Walter, G.B	4	38	9.5	24	0
Gray, Mel, N.O	8	37	4.6	12	1
Jessie, Tim, Wash	10	37	3.7	14	1
Br m James, Minn	2	36	18.0	138	1
Jordan, R, Ford, N.O	12	36	3.0	18	2
Rodenberger, Jeff, N.O	17	35	2.1	5	0
Green, Roy, St. L	2	34	17.0	26	0
DuBose, Doug, S.F	10	33	3.3	11	0
Parker, Freddie, G.B	8	33	4.1	17	0
Austin, Cliff, T.B	19	32	1.7	8	1
Telischuk, John, Phil	3	32	10.7	23	0
Adams, Tony, Minn	11	31	2.8	12	0
Garza, Sammy, St. L	8	31	3.9	10	1
Rubbert, Ed, Wash	9	31	3.4	14	0
Ruledge, Jeff, Giants	15	31	2.1	20	0
Bartalo, Steve, T.B	9	30	3.3	6	1
Gladman, Charles, T.B	12	29	2.4	6	0
Williams, Scott, Del	8	29	3.6	8	0
Payton, Sean, Chi	1	28	28.0	28	0
W, son, Ted, Wash	2	28	14.0	116	1
Jackson, Kenny, Phil	5	27	4.5	10	1
Monroe, Carl, S.F	2	26	13.0	17	1
Weigel, Lee, G.B	10	26	2.6	7	0
Suhey, Matt, Chi	7	24	3.4	6	0
Walker, Adam, Minn	5	24	4.8	11	0
Harris, Frank, Chi	6	23	3.8	18	0
Beecham, Earl, Giants	5	22	4.4	10	0

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Miller, Chris, Atl.	4	21	5.3	11	0
Grant, Otis, Phil.	1	20	20.0	20	0
Land, Dan, T.B.	9	20	2.2	6	0
Sterling, John, G.B.	5	20	4.0	9	0
Wornack, Jeff, Minn.	9	20	2.2	13	0
Thomas, Lavale, G.B.	5	19	3.8	5	0
Baker, Stephen, Giants	1	18	18.0	18	0
Jean-Baptiste, Garland, N.O.	8	18	2.3	7	0
Morris, Larry G.B.	8	18	2.3	10	0
Gault, Willie, Chi.	2	16	8.0	9	0
Wilson, Brett, Minn.	5	16	3.2	6	0
Harbaugh, James, Chi.	4	15	3.8	9	0
Ingram, Kevin, N.O.	2	14	7.0	9	0
Morse, Bobby, Phil.	6	14	2.3	7	0
Verdin, Clarence, Wash.	1	14	14.0	14	0
White, Danny, Del.	10	14	1.4	8	1
Paige, Tony, Del.	4	13	3.3	6	0
Smith, Jimmy, Minn.	7	13	1.9	5	0
Granger, Norm, Atl.	6	12	2.0	6	0
Clark, Daryl, Chi.	5	11	2.2	5	0
Figuer, Terrence, S.F.	6	11	1.8	5	0
Lovelady, Edwin, Giants	2	11	5.5	8	0
McIntosh, Joe, Atl.	5	11	2.2	5	0
Moore, Leonard, Minn.	4	11	2.8	4	0
Park, Kaulana, Giants	6	11	1.8	4	0
Evans, Donald, Rams	3	10	3.3	5	0
Kramer, Erik, Atl.	2	10	5.0	11	0

RECORDS

Receptions: 106, Art Monk, Washington (1984)

Yards: 1,570, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1986)

TDs: 22, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1987)

5 or more receptions	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Smith, J.T., S.F.	91	1117	12.3	38	8
Craig, Roger, S.F.	66	492	7.5	135	1
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	65	1078	16.6	157	22
Walker, Herschel, Dall.	60	715	11.9	44	1
Mandley, Pete, Del.	58	720	12.4	41	7
Clark, Gary, Wash.	56	1066	19.0	184	7
Bavaro, Mark, Giants	55	867	15.8	38	8
Ellard, Henry, Rams	51	799	15.7	181	3
Anderson, Neal, Chi.	47	467	9.9	159	3
Quick Mike, Phil.	46	790	17.2	161	11
Rentfro, Mike, Dall.	46	662	14.4	43	4
Mitchell, Stump, S.F.	45	397	8.8	39	2
Martin, Eric, N.O.	44	778	17.7	67	7
Green, Roy, S.F.	43	731	17.0	57	4
Bryant, Kelvin, Wash.	43	490	11.4	39	5
Awat, Robert, S.F.	42	526	12.5	35	6
Wilder, James, T.B.	40	328	8.2	32	1
Toney, Anthony, Phil.	39	341	8.7	33	1
Carter, Anthony, Minn.	38	922	24.3	173	7
Stanley, Walter G.B.	38	672	17.7	170	3
Carter, Gerald, T.B.	38	586	15.4	57	5
Monk, Art, Wash.	38	483	12.7	62	6
Sanders, Ricky, Wash.	37	630	17.0	57	3
Dixon, Floyd, Atl.	36	600	16.7	151	5
Cosbie, Doug, Dall.	36	421	11.7	30	3
Neal, Frankie, G.B.	36	420	11.7	38	3
Spagnola, John, Phil.	36	350	9.7	22	2
Gault, Willie, Chi.	35	705	20.1	156	7
Jordan, Steve, Minn.	35	490	14.0	38	2
Adams, George, Giants	35	298	8.5	25	1
Edwards, Kelvin, Dall.	34	521	15.3	138	3
Eppe, Phil, G.B.	34	516	15.2	40	2
Magee, Calvin, T.B.	34	424	12.5	37	3
Newsome, Tim, Dall.	34	274	8.1	30	2
Jones, James, Del.	34	262	7.7	35	0
Payton, Walter, Chi.	33	217	6.6	16	1
Matthews, Aubrey, Atl.	32	537	16.8	57	3
Manuel, Lionel, Giants	30	545	18.2	150	6
Chadwick, Jeff, Del.	30	416	13.9	36	0
Rathman, Tom, S.F.	30	329	11.0	29	3
Wilson, Mike, S.F.	29	450	15.5	146	5
Jones, Mike, N.O.	27	420	15.6	143	3
McKinnon, Dennis, Chi.	27	406	15.0	33	1
Brown, Ron, Rams	26	521	20.0	52	2
Carner, Mark, T.B.	26	423	16.3	38	3
Frank, John, S.F.	26	296	11.4	27	3
Galtbreath, Tony, Giants	26	248	9.5	21	0

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NFL Statistics

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Nelson, Darin, Minn.	26	129	5.0	13	0
Riggs, Gerald, Atl.	25	199	8.0	48	0
Tautalatasi, Junior, Phil.	25	176	7.0	22	0
Lewis, Leo, Minn.	24	383	16.0	36	2
Clark, Dwight, S.F.	24	290	12.1	140	1
Moorehead, Emery, Chi.	24	269	11.2	27	1
Hill, Bruce, T.B.	23	403	17.5	40	2
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	23	264	11.5	138	1
Ferrell, Earl, S.L.	23	262	11.4	36	0
White, Charles, Rams	23	121	5.3	20	0
Guman, Mike, Rams	22	263	12.0	33	1
Francis, Russ, S.F.	22	202	9.2	19	1
Clark, Jessie, G.B.	22	119	5.4	19	1
Jackson, Kenny, Phil.	21	471	22.4	170	3
Johnson, Damone, Rams	21	198	9.4	20	2
Byars, Keith, Phil.	21	177	8.4	30	1
Morris, Ron, Chi.	20	379	19.0	142	1
Bailey, Stacey, Atl.	20	325	16.3	35	3
Brenner, Hoby, N.O.	20	280	14.0	29	2
Novacek, Jay, S.L.	20	254	12.7	25	3
Smith, Jeff, T.B.	20	197	9.9	134	2
Hill, Lonzell, N.O.	19	322	16.9	36	2
Lee, Gary, Del.	19	308	16.2	53	0
West, Ed, G.B.	19	261	13.7	40	1
Rice, Allen, Minn.	19	201	10.6	24	1
Dorsett, Tony, Dal.	19	177	9.3	33	1
Woolfolk, Butch, Del.	19	166	8.7	13	0
Brim, James, Minn.	18	282	15.7	163	2
Baty, Greg, N.E. Rams	18	175	9.7	22	2
Boso, Cap, Chi.	17	188	11.1	31	2
Gentry, Dennis, Chi.	17	183	10.8	138	1
Whisenand, Ken, Atl.	17	145	8.5	26	1
Grant, Otis, Phil.	16	280	17.5	41	1
Morris, Lee, G.B.	16	259	16.2	146	1
James, Garry, Del.	16	215	13.4	46	0
Tice, John, N.O.	16	181	11.3	127	6
Hall, Ron, T.B.	16	169	10.6	29	1
Johnson, Troy, S.L.	15	308	20.5	149	2
Baker, Stephen, Giants	15	277	18.5	50	1
Banks, Gordon, Dal.	15	231	15.4	34	1
Kozlowski, Gler, Chi.	15	199	13.3	28	3
Mayes, Rueben, N.O.	15	68	4.5	16	1
Davis, Kenneth, G.B.	14	110	7.9	35	0
Allen, Anthony, Wash.	13	337	25.9	188	1
Didier, Clint, Wash.	13	178	13.7	25	1
Giles, Jimmie, Del.-Phil.	13	157	12.1	140	1
Rubick, Rob, Del.	13	147	11.3	22	1
Dawsey, Stacey, N.O.	13	142	10.9	29	0
Wright, Adrian, T.B.	13	98	7.5	115	1
Bernard, Karl, Del.	13	91	7.0	12	0
Garity, Gregg, Phil.	12	242	20.2	41	2
Trouvillion, Eric, Del.	12	207	17.3	153	1
Paskett, Keith, G.B.	12	188	15.7	147	1
Taylor, Lenny, Atl.	12	171	14.3	28	1
Barksdale, Rod, Dal.	12	165	13.8	22	1
Heller, Ron, S.F.	12	165	13.8	139	3
McLewen, Craig, Wash.	12	164	13.7	42	0
Dozier, D.J., Minn.	12	89	7.4	120	1
McConkey, Phil, Giants	11	186	16.9	31	1
Settle, John, Atl.	11	153	13.9	36	0
Holmes, Don, S.L.	11	132	12.0	23	0
Rouson, Lee, Giants	11	129	11.7	126	1
Morris, Joe, Giants	11	114	10.4	25	0
Hill, David, Rams	11	105	9.5	24	0
Cox, Arthur, Atl.	11	101	9.2	19	0
Turner, Odessa, Giants	10	195	19.5	36	1
Bennett, Lewis, Giants	10	184	18.4	146	1
Barney, Milton, Atl.	10	175	17.5	32	2
Holoway, Steve, T.B.	10	127	12.7	26	0
Lovelady, Edwyn, Giants	10	125	12.5	123	2
Howard, Bobby, T.B.	10	123	12.3	45	1
Carroll, Paul, Chi. G.B.	10	78	7.8	19	1
Taylor, John, S.F.	9	151	16.8	34	0
Grymes, Darrell, Del.	9	140	15.6	136	2
Sano, Mike, Phil.	9	137	15.2	34	1
Pattison, Mark, N.O.	9	132	14.7	36	0
Beil, Greg, Buff.-Rams	9	96	10.7	132	1
Cribbs, Joe, S.F.	9	70	7.8	16	1
Williams, Michael, Atl.	9	70	7.8	15	0
Freeman, Phil, T.B.	8	141	17.6	164	2
Mobley, Stacey, Rams	8	107	13.4	140	1
Johnson, Billy, Atl.	8	84	10.5	19	0
Scott, Patrick, G.B.	8	79	9.9	16	1

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Carthon, Maurice, Giants	8	71	8.9	25	0
Bailey, Eric, Phil.	8	69	8.6	19	0
Wotley, Ron, S.L.	8	68	8.5	16	0
Brown, Reggie, Phil.	8	53	6.6	14	0
Francis, Jon, Rams	8	38	4.8	7	2
Jones, Hassan, Minn.	7	189	27.0	458	2
Burbage, Cornell, Dal.	7	168	24.0	177	2
Byrd, Sylvester, Atl.	7	125	17.9	33	0
Nichols, Mark, Del.	7	87	12.4	23	0
Summers, Don, G.B.	7	83	11.9	17	1
Edwards, Stan, Del.	7	82	11.7	21	0
Anderson, Alfred, Minn.	7	69	9.9	22	0
Haddix, Michael, Phil.	7	58	8.3	23	0
Suhey, Matt, Chi.	7	54	7.7	12	0
Kamara, John, Atl.	7	51	7.3	15	1
Bradley, Danny, Del.	7	50	7.1	14	2
Flowers, Kenny, Atl.	7	50	7.1	24	0
Warren, Don, Wash.	7	43	6.1	9	0
McGee, Buford, Rams	7	40	5.7	12	0
Hunter, Eddie, Jets-T.B.	7	28	4.0	18	2
Fenney, Rick, Minn.	7	27	3.9	18	0
Bowman, Kevin, Phil.	6	127	21.2	162	1
Greer, Terry, S.F.	6	111	18.5	50	1
Moore, Malcolm, Rams	6	107	17.8	26	1
Smith, Jeff, Giants	6	72	12.0	19	0
House, Kevin, Rams	6	63	10.5	115	1
Tyrrell, Tim, Rams	6	59	9.8	16	0
Robinson, Stacy, Giants	6	58	9.7	14	2
Word, Barry, N.O.	6	54	9.0	17	0
Wilkins, Kevin, G.B.	6	37	6.2	12	0
Badanjek, Rick, Atl.	6	35	5.8	16	0
Scott, Malcolm, N.O.	6	35	5.8	11	0
Gray, Me, N.O.	6	30	5.0	12	0
Waters, Mike, N.O.	5	140	28.0	182	1
Streater, Eric, T.B.	5	117	23.4	161	2
Wilson, Ted, Wash.	5	112	22.4	164	1
Brown, Charlie, Atl.	5	103	20.6	23	0
Martin, Kevin, Dal.	5	103	20.6	33	0
Miller, Solomon, T.B.	5	97	19.4	33	0
Carter, Chris, Phil.	5	84	16.8	25	2
Brewer, Chris, Chi.	5	56	11.2	19	1
Kab, Vyto, Del.	5	54	10.8	28	0
Austin, Clint, T.B.	5	51	10.2	20	0
Hemul, Laker, Chi.	5	51	10.2	17	1
Ellerson, Gary, Del.	5	48	9.6	23	1
Repko, Jay, Phil.	5	46	9.2	12	0
White, Gerald, Dal.	5	46	9.2	14	0
Wornack, Jeff, Minn.	5	46	9.2	123	1
Ross, Alvin, Phil.	5	41	8.2	17	0
Williams, Van, Giants	5	36	7.2	12	0
Kindt, Don, Chi.	5	34	6.8	11	1
Emery, Larry, Atl.	5	31	6.2	13	0
Chandler, Thornton, Dal.	5	25	5.0	9	1

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Erich Barnes, New York (1981)

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3, Herb Adderley, Green Bay (1955)

3, Monte Jackson, Los Angeles (1978)

3, Rod Perry, Los Angeles (1976)

3, Ronnie Lott, San Francisco (1981)

2 or more	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Wilburn, Barry Wash.	9	135	15.0	1100	1
Gulfin, James, Del.	6	130	21.7	29	0
Browner, Joey, Del.	6	67	11.2	23	0
Kinard, Terry, Giants	5	163	32.6	170	1
Waymer, Dave, N.O.	5	78	15.6	35	0
Sutton, Reggie, N.O.	5	68	13.6	26	0
Curtis, Travis, S.L.	5	65	13.0	31	0
Lott, Ronnie, S.F.	5	62	12.4	34	0
Wallis, Everson, Dal.	5	38	7.6	30	0
Giff n. Don, S.F.	5	1	0.2	1	0
Downs, M chael, Dal.	4	56	14.0	27	0
Butler Bobby, Atl.	4	48	12.0	31	0
Henderson Wymon, Minn.	4	33	8.3	17	0
Mack M Iton, N.O.	4	32	8.0	26	0
Bowles, Todd, Wash.	4	24	6.0	24	0

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Foules, Elbert, Phil	4	6	1.5	6	0
Morris, Jim Bob, G.B.	3	135	45.0	73	0
Green, Darrel, Wash.	3	65	21.7	56	0
Walters, Andre, Phil.	3	63	21.0	63	0
Lee, Carl, Minn.	3	53	17.7	36	0
Galloway, Duane, Del.	3	46	15.3	30	0
Jakes, Van, N.O.	3	32	10.7	27	0
Bates, Bill, Dall.	3	28	9.3	28	0
Walton, Alvin, Wash.	3	28	9.3	24	0
Harris, John, Minn.	3	20	6.7	14	0
McNorton, Bruce, Del.	3	20	6.7	20	0
Maxie, Brett, N.O.	3	17	5.7	10	0
Tropu, Paul, T.B.	3	17	5.7	15	1
Brown, Dave, G.B.	3	16	5.3	11	0
Taylor Lawrence, Giants	3	16	5.3	15	0
Atkins, Gene, N.O.	3	12	4.0	8	0
Haynes, Tommy, Dall.	3	7	2.3	7	0
Duerson, Dave, Chi.	3	0	0.0	0	0
Isom, Ray, T.B.	2	67	33.5	38	0
Woods, Rick, T.B.	2	63	31.5	42	0
Coleman, Monte, Wash.	2	59	29.5	28	0
Williams, Jimmy, Del.	2	51	25.5	48	0
Irvin, LeRoy, Rams	2	47	23.5	147	1
Futrell Bobby, T.B.	2	46	23.0	23	0
Joyner, Seth, Phil	2	42	21.0	29	0
Croudie, David, All	2	40	20.0	40	0
Gray, Jerry, Rams	2	35	17.5	35	0
McLemore, Dana, S.F.	2	35	17.5	25	0
Walker, Kevin, T.B.	2	30	15.0	130	1
Cotkins, Mark, Giants	2	28	14.0	28	0
Cromwell, Nolan, Rams	2	28	14.0	28	0
Gordon, Tim, All.	2	28	14.0	27	0
Studwell, Scott, Minn.	2	26	13.0	14	0
Headen, Andy, Giants	2	25	12.5	20	0
Kullman, Mike, Phil	2	25	12.5	13	0
Moore, Robert, All	2	23	11.5	18	0
Anderson, John, G.B.	2	22	11.0	13	0
Rivera, Ron, Chi.	2	19	9.5	15	0
Francis, Ron, Dall.	2	18	9.0	118	1
Huff, Charles, All	2	14	7.0	14	1
Jones, Rod, T.B.	2	9	4.5	9	0
Brown, Jerome, Phil	2	7	3.5	6	0
Hall, Isaac, Minn.	2	7	3.5	7	0
Welch, Herb, Giants	2	7	3.5	7	0
Holland, Johnny, G.B.	2	4	2.0	4	0
Jackson, Rickey, N.O.	2	4	2.0	4	0
Hoage, Terry, Phil	2	3	1.5	3	0
Phillips, Reggie, Chi	2	1	0.5	1	0
Cooper, Evan, Phil	2	0	0.0	0	0
Douglass, Maurice, Chi	2	0	0.0	0	0
Mack, Cedric, S.F.	2	0	0.0	0	0
McKyer, Tim, S.F.	2	0	0.0	0	0

PERFECT

RECORDS

Number: 70, Danny Reece, Tampa Bay (1979)

Yards: 646, Eddie Brown, Washington (1976)

Longest for TD: 98 yards

Gill Lefebvre, Cincinnati (1933)

Charlie West, Minnesota (1968)

Dennis Morgan, Dallas (1974)

	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Gray Mel, N.O.	24	5	352	14.7	80	0
McLemore, Dana, S.F.	21	7	265	12.6	183	1
Lewis, Leo, Minn.	22	7	275	12.5	178	1
Sikahema, Vai, S.F.	44	7	550	12.5	176	1
Mandley, Pete, Del.	23	8	250	10.9	54	0
McKinnon, Dennis, Chi	40	4	405	10.1	194	2
Martin, Kelvin, Dall.	22	2	216	9.8	38	0
McConkey, Phil, Giants	42	14	394	9.4	37	0
Futrell, Bobby, T.B.	24	5	213	8.9	22	0
Johnson, Billy, Atl.	21	6	168	8.0	45	0
Yarber Eric, Wash.	37	9	273	7.4	33	0
Stanley, Walter, G.B.	28	4	173	6.2	48	0
Morse, Bobby, Phil	20	13	121	6.1	23	0
NON-QUALIFIERS (2 or more)						
Eliard, Henry, Rams	15	6	107	7.1	29	0
Martin, Eric, N.O.	14	2	88	6.3	15	0
Hicks, Cliff, Rams	13	1	110	8.5	26	0
Bradley Danny, Del.	12	5	53	4.4	13	0
Lovelady, Edwin, Giants	10	0	38	3.8	14	0
Griffin, Don, S.F.	9	2	79	8.8	29	0

continued

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PITTSBURGH STEELERS									
1987 ROSTER									
QB	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RB	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
FB	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
WR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TE	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
OL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
DL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
LB	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
CB	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
DB	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
K	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
P	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1987 ROSTER									
QB	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RB	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
FB	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
WR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TE	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
OL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
DL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
LB	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
CB	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
DB	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
K	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
P	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

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	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Wilson, Ted, Wash.	8	0	143	17.9	40	0
Edwards, Kelvin, Dal	8	1	75	9.4	13	0
Duane, George, Chi	8	1	64	8.0	16	0
Bess, Rufus, Minn.	7	3	86	12.3	28	0
Shepard, Derrick, Wash.	6	0	146	24.3	73	0
Scott, Patrick, G.B.	6	2	71	11.8	36	0
Green, Darrell, Wash.	5	1	53	10.6	15	0
Banks, Gordon, Dal	5	1	33	6.6	12	0
Burbage, Connell, Dal	5	1	29	5.8	13	0
Barney, M. Ion, Atl.	5	0	28	5.6	11	0
Bowman, Kevin, Phil.	4	1	43	10.8	37	0
Richardson, Greg, Minn.	4	2	19	4.8	7	0
Garrity, Gregg, Phil.	4	10	16	4.0	10	0
Watts, Herkie, T.B.	4	2	12	3.0	11	0
Johnson, Sam, Rams	4	1	-4	-1.0	5	0
Carter, Anthony, Minn.	3	0	40	13.3	22	0
Curry, Ivory, T.B.	3	0	32	10.7	14	0
Baker, Stephen, Giants	3	0	16	5.3	6	0
Moss, Gary, Atl.	3	1	15	5.0	11	0
Rutledge, Craig, Rams	3	0	10	3.3	7	0
Caulerbone, Thomas, Phil.	2	0	13	6.5	13	0
Martin, Derrick, S.F.	2	0	12	6.0	9	0
Bulter, Jerry, Atl.	2	0	10	5.0	9	0
James, Mike, Phil.	2	0	10	5.0	5	0
Smith, Phil, Rams	2	0	5	2.5	5	0

RECORDS

Number 60, Drew Hill, Los Angeles (1981)
Yards 1,345 Buster Rhymes, Minnesota (1985)
Longest 106 yards
Al Carmichael, Green Bay (1956)
Roy Green, St. Louis (1979)
TDs: 4, Travis Williams, Green Bay (1967)
4, Cecil Turner, Chicago (1970)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Stamps, Sylvester, Atl.	24	660	27.5	197	1
Gentry, Dennis, Chi.	25	621	24.8	188	1
Rouson, Lee, Giants	22	497	22.6	49	0
Lee, Gary, Dal	32	719	22.5	50	0
Guggemos, Neal, Minn.	36	808	22.4	42	0
Sikahema, Val, St.L.	34	761	22.4	50	0
Crack, Darryl, Dal.	29	635	21.9	48	0
Brown, Ron, Rams	27	581	21.5	185	1
Fullwood, Brent, G.B.	24	510	21.3	46	0
Gray, Mel, N.O.	30	636	21.2	43	0
Emery, Larry, Atl.	21	440	21.0	66	0
Futrel, Bobby, T.B.	31	609	19.6	40	0
McAdoo, Derrick, St.L.	23	444	19.3	30	0
Griffin, Keith, Wash.	25	478	19.1	54	0
Sanders, Thomas, Chi.	20	349	17.5	42	0
Morse, Bobby, Phil.	24	386	16.1	28	0
NON-QUALIFIERS (5 or more)					
Rodgers, Del, S.F.	17	358	21.1	50	0
Cribbs, Joe, S.F.	13	327	25.2	192	1
Vordin, Clarence, Wash.	12	244	20.3	38	0
Sydney, Harry, S.F.	12	243	20.3	30	0
Carter, Chris, Phil.	12	241	20.1	33	0
Martin, Kelvin, Dal	12	237	19.8	38	0
Woolf, K, Butch, Del	11	219	19.9	44	0
H. Iard, Dalton, N.O.	10	248	24.8	74	0
Bess, Rufus, Minn.	10	169	16.9	33	0
Sellie, John, Atl.	10	158	15.8	22	0
Cook, Kelly, G.B.	10	147	14.7	36	0
Bradley, Danny, Del	9	188	20.9	27	0
Adams, George, Giants	9	166	18.4	27	0
Thurman, Casey, Rams	8	158	19.8	25	0
Nelson, Darn, Minn.	7	164	23.4	42	0
Edwards, Kelvin, Dal	7	155	22.1	32	0
Bowman, Kevin, Phil.	7	153	21.9	32	0
Watts, Herkie, T.B.	6	135	22.7	39	0
Tyrell, Tim, Rams	6	116	19.3	30	0
Ingram, Mark, Giants	6	114	19.0	25	0
Adams, David, Dal	6	113	18.8	27	0
Lavette, Robert, Dal-Phil	6	109	18.2	22	0
Hal, Arvin, Del.	6	105	17.5	25	0
Morris, Lee, G.B.	6	104	17.3	28	0
Williams, Alonzo, Rams	5	114	22.8	47	0
Monroe, Carl, S.F.	5	91	18.2	24	0
Oliver, Darryl, Atl.	5	90	18.0	28	0
Cooper, Evan, Phil.	5	86	17.2	24	0
Smith, Jeff, T.B.	5	84	16.8	21	0
Womack, Jeff, Minn.	5	77	15.4	20	0

t=Touchdown

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AFC

RECORDS

Points: 155, Gino Cappelletti, Boston (1964)
Touchdowns: 23, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1975)
Field goals: 34, Jim Turner, New York (1968)
Extra points: 66, Uwe von Schamann, Miami (1984)

SCORING

	TD	TOR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
Cleveland	47	16	27	4	45	47	21	31	0	390
Denver	45	18	24	3	44	45	21	29	1	379
Seattle	46	13	31	2	44	46	17	22	0	371
Miami	47	16	29	2	44	47	12	16	0	362
Houston	38	12	24	2	37	38	26	32	1	345
Jets	39	17	18	4	38	39	20	26	1	334
New England	39	12	22	5	38	39	16	28	0	320
Raiders	35	13	19	3	34	35	19	30	0	301
Indianapolis	31	14	16	1	31	31	27	32	1	300
Cincinnati	30	13	17	0	28	30	25	32	1	285
Pittsburgh	31	11	13	7	31	31	22	29	1	285
Kansas City	30	7	17	6	30	30	21	25	0	273
Buffalo	33	9	21	3	32	33	12	20	2	270
San Diego	29	11	13	5	27	29	16	28	2	253

KICKERS

20 or more points	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Breech, Jim, Cin	25	27	24	30	97
Biasucci, Dean, Ind	24	24	24	27	96
Zendejas, Tony, Hou	32	33	20	26	92
Karlis, Rich, Den	37	37	18	25	91
Anderson, Gary, Pitt	21	21	22	27	87
Johnson, Norm, Sea	40	40	15	20	85
Lahey, Pat, Jets	31	31	18	22	85
Bahr, Chris, Raiders	27	28	19	29	84
Lowery, Nick, K C	26	26	19	23	83
Franklin, Tony, N.E.	37	38	15	26	82
Jaeger, Jeff, Clev	33	33	14	22	75
Abbott, Vince, S.D.	22	23	13	22	61
Norwood, Scott, Buff	31	31	10	15	61
Ravetz, Fred, Mia	28	30	9	11	55
Tiffin, Van, T.B.-Mia	11	11	5	7	26
Dietrich, John, Hou	5	5	6	6	23
Bahr, Matt, Clev	9	10	4	5	21
Beecher, Willie, Mia	12	12	3	4	21

7 or more points

7 or more points	TD	TOR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Hector, Johnny, Jets	11	11	0	0	66
Byner, Earnest, Clev	10	8	2	0	60
Warner, Curt, Sea	10	8	2	0	60
Beniley, Albert, Ind	9	7	2	0	54
Riddick, Robb, Buff	8	5	3	0	50
Duper, Mark, Mia	8	0	8	0	48
Kinnelbrew, Larry, Cin	8	8	0	0	48
Argent, Steve, Sea	8	0	8	0	48
Carson, Carlos, K C	7	0	7	0	42
Clayton, Mark, Mia	7	0	7	0	42
Johnson, Vance, Den	7	0	7	0	42
Slaughter, Webster, Clev	7	0	7	0	42
Stradford, Troy, Mia	7	6	1	0	42
Winder, Sammy, Den	7	6	1	0	42
Brennan, Brian, Clev	6	0	6	0	36
Colins, Tony, N.E.	6	3	3	0	36
Dickerson, Eric, Rams-Ind	6	6	0	0	36
Givins, Ernest, Hou	6	0	6	0	36
Hilt, Drew, Hou	6	0	6	0	36
Jackson, Bo, Raiders	6	4	2	0	36
James, Lionel, S.D.	6	2	3	1	36
Mack, Kevin, Clev	6	5	1	0	36
Turner, Daryl, Sea	6	0	6	0	36

* Safety # Extra point

	TD	TOR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Elway, John, Den	4	4	0	0	24
Harmon, Ronnie, Buff	4	2	2	0	24
Lang, Gene, Den	4	2	2	0	24
Massie, Rick, Den	4	0	4	0	24
Paige, Stephane, K.C.	4	0	4	0	24
Williams, John L., Sea	4	1	3	0	24
Akens, Car, Raiders	3	0	3	0	18
Brooks, Bill, Ind	3	0	3	0	18
Brooks, James, Cin	3	1	2	0	18
Brown, Eddie, Cin	3	0	3	0	18
Carter, Rodney, Pitt	3	0	3	0	18
Dupard, Reggie, N.E.	3	3	0	0	18
Heard, Herman, K.C.	3	3	0	0	18
Jennings, Stanford, Cin	3	1	2	0	18
Jones, Cedric, N.E.	3	0	3	0	18
Malone, Mark, Pitt	3	3	0	0	18
Marlin, Mike, Cin	3	0	3	0	18
Masson, Larry, Clev	3	2	1	0	18
Moon, Warren, Hou	3	3	0	0	18
Morgan, Stanley, N.E.	3	0	3	0	18
Murray, Walter, Ind	3	0	3	0	18
Okoye, Christian, K.C.	3	3	0	0	18
Pollard, Frank, Pitt	3	3	0	0	18
Pruitt, James, Mia	3	0	3	0	18
Rozier, Mike, Hou	3	3	0	0	18
Scott, Ronald, Mia	3	3	0	0	18
Sewel, Steve, Den	3	2	1	0	18
Shuler, Mickey, Jets	3	0	3	0	18
Starring, Stephen, N.E.	3	0	3	0	18
Tenneil, Derek, Clev	3	0	3	0	18
Williams, Jamie, Hou	3	0	3	0	18
Winslow, Kellen, S.D.	3	0	3	0	18
Abercrombie, Walter, Pitt	2	2	0	0	12
Aston, Lymel, Pitt	2	0	2	0	12
Baty, Greg, N.E.	2	0	2	0	12
Chandler, Wes, S.D.	2	0	2	0	12



continued

	TD	TOR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Christensen, Todd, Raiders	2	0	2	0	12
Davenport, Ron, Mia.	2	1	1	0	12
Dudek, Joe, Den	2	2	0	0	12
Ellis, Craig, Raiders	2	2	0	0	12
Faola, Niu, Jets	2	2	0	0	12
Fouts, Dan, S.D.	2	2	0	0	12
Grogan, Steve, N.E.	2	2	0	0	12
Hal, Delton, Pitt	2	0	0	2	12
Hardy Bruce, Mia	2	0	2	0	12
Harper, Michael, Jets	2	0	1	1	12
Hayes, Jonathan, K.C.	2	0	2	0	12
Higginbotham, A. Onzo, Hou	2	1	1	0	12
Holman, Rodney, Cin	2	0	2	0	12
Hunter, Eddie, Jets	2	0	2	0	12
Jackson, Mark, Den.	2	0	2	0	12
Johnson, Dan, Mia	2	0	2	0	12
Johnson, Trumaine, Buff.	2	0	2	0	12
Katus, Eric, Cin	2	0	2	0	12
Kemp, Perry, Clev	2	0	2	0	12
Krieg, Dave, Sea	2	2	0	0	12
Linn, Larry, N.E.	2	0	2	0	12
McPhee, Ronnie, N.E.	2	0	0	2	12
Mackey, Kyle, Mia	2	2	0	0	12
McNeil, Gerald, Clev	2	0	2	0	12
Micho, Bobby, Den	2	0	2	0	12
Muelter, James, Buff	2	2	0	0	12
Nalley, Ricky, Den	2	0	2	0	12
Noble, James, Ind	2	0	2	0	12
Palmer, Paul, K.C.	2	0	0	2	12
Pinkett, Allen, Hou	2	2	0	0	12
Royle, Bulch, Buff	2	0	2	0	12
Scott, Willie, N.E.	2	0	1	1	12
Shel, Donnie, Pitt	2	0	0	2	12
Sohn, Kurt, Jets	2	0	2	0	12
Stallworth, John, Pitt	2	0	2	0	12
Teal, Sammy, Sea	2	0	2	0	12
Tice, Mike, Sea	2	0	2	0	12
Weathers, Clarence, Clev	2	0	2	0	12
Neuheiser, Rick, S.D.	1	1	0	0	#7

RECORDS

Carries: 380, Marcus Allen, Los Angeles (1985)
Yards: 2,003, O. J. Simpson, Buffalo (1973)
TDs: 19, Earl Campbell, Houston (1979)
19, Chuck Muncie, San Diego (1981)

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Raiders	475	2197	4.6	191	13
Cincinnati	538	2164	4.0	52	13
Pittsburgh	517	2144	4.1	51	11
Indianapolis	497	2143	4.3	53	14
Seattle	496	2023	4.1	157	13
Denver	510	1970	3.9	29	18
Houston	486	1929	4.0	41	12
Buffalo	485	1840	4.0	30	9
Kansas City	419	1799	4.3	164	7
New England	513	1771	3.5	49	12
Cleveland	474	1745	3.7	35	16
Jets	458	1671	3.6	32	17
Miami	408	1662	4.1	51	16
San Diego	396	1308	3.3	25	11

10 or more yards

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Dickerson, Eric, Rams-Ind	283	1288	4.6	57	6
Warner, Curt, Sea	234	985	4.2	157	8
Rozier, Mike, Hou	229	957	4.2	41	3
Allen, Marcus, Raiders	200	754	3.8	44	5
Winder, Sammy, Den	196	741	3.8	19	6
Mack, Kevin, Clev	201	735	3.7	122	5
Jackson, Earnest, Pitt	180	696	3.9	39	1
Okoye, Christian, K.C.	157	660	4.2	143	3
Bentley, Albert, Ind	142	631	4.4	117	7
Stradford, Troy, Mia	145	619	4.3	51	6
Kinnelbrow, Larry, Cin	145	570	3.9	52	8
Jackson, Bo, Raiders	81	554	6.8	191	4
Pojar, Frank, Pitt	128	536	4.2	33	3
McNeil, Freeman, Jets	121	530	4.4	30	0
Williams, John, Sea	113	500	4.4	48	1
Harmon, Ronnie, Buff	116	485	4.2	21	2
Collins, Tony, N.E.	147	474	3.2	19	3
Heard, Herman, K.C.	82	466	5.7	164	3
Abercrombie, Walter, Pitt	123	459	3.7	128	2
Hector, Johnny, Jets	111	435	3.9	120	11
Byner, Ernest, Clev	105	432	4.1	21	8
Muelter, James, Buff	82	354	4.3	20	2
Adams, Curtis, S.D.	90	343	3.8	24	1

RUSHING

RECORDS

Completions: 378, Dan Marino, Miami (1986)
Touchdowns: 48, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)
Yards: 5,084, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)
Longest for TD: 99 yards, Jim Plunkett to Cliff Branch, Los Angeles (1983)

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	PCT TD	LONG	NT	PCT NT	RATING
Kosar, Bernie, Clev	389	241	62.0	3033	7.80	22	5.7	154	9	2.3	95.4
Marino, Dan, Mia	444	263	59.2	3245	7.31	26	5.9	159	13	2.9	89.2
Krieg, Dave, Sea	294	178	60.5	2131	7.25	23	7.8	175	15	5.1	87.6
Kennedy, B. II, K.C.	273	154	56.4	2107	7.22	15	5.5	181	9	3.3	85.8
Wilson, Marc, Raiders	266	152	57.1	2070	7.78	12	4.5	147	8	3.0	84.6
Kelly, Jim, Buff	419	250	59.7	2798	6.68	19	4.5	47	11	2.6	83.8
Elway, John, Den	410	224	54.6	3198	7.80	19	4.6	172	12	2.9	83.4
O'Brien, Ken, Jets	393	234	59.5	2696	6.86	13	3.3	59	8	2.0	82.8
Trudeau, Jack, Ind	229	128	55.9	1587	6.93	6	2.6	55	6	2.6	75.4
Moon, Warren, Hou	368	184	50.0	2806	7.63	21	5.7	183	18	4.9	74.2
Esiason, Boomer, Cin	440	240	54.5	3321	7.55	16	3.6	161	19	4.3	73.1
Fouts, Dan, S.D.	364	206	56.6	2517	6.91	10	2.7	46	15	4.1	70.0
Malone, Mark, Pitt	336	156	46.4	1896	5.64	6	1.8	63	19	5.7	46.7

NON-QUALIFIERS (50 or more attempts)

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	PCT TD	LONG	NT	PCT NT	RATING
Ryan, Pat, Jets	53	32	60.4	314	5.92	4	7.5	135	2	3.8	86.5
Neuheiser, Rick, S.D.	59	40	67.8	367	6.22	1	1.7	32	1	1.7	83.1
Hogeboom, Gary, Ind	168	99	58.9	1145	6.82	9	5.4	172	5	3.0	85.0
Grogan, Steve, N.E.	161	93	57.8	1183	7.35	10	6.2	40	9	5.6	78.2
Bono, Steve, Pitt	74	34	45.9	438	5.92	5	6.8	57	2	2.7	76.3
Karcher, Ken, Den	102	56	54.9	628	6.16	5	4.9	49	4	3.9	73.5
Evans, Vince, Raiders	83	39	47.0	630	7.59	5	6.0	47	4	4.8	72.9
Eason, Tony, N.E.	79	42	53.2	453	5.73	3	3.8	45	2	2.5	72.4
Stevens, Matt, K.C.	57	32	56.1	315	5.53	1	1.8	23	1	1.8	70.4
Ramsay, Tom, N.E.	134	71	53.0	898	6.70	6	4.5	40	6	4.5	70.4
Pease, Brent, Hou	113	56	49.6	728	6.44	3	2.7	51	5	4.4	60.6
Mackey, Kyle, Mia	109	57	52.3	604	5.54	3	2.8	30	5	4.6	58.8
Higer, Rusty, Raiders	106	55	51.9	706	6.66	2	1.9	49	6	5.7	55.8
Herrmann, Mark, S.D.	57	37	64.9	405	7.11	1	1.8	34	5	8.8	55.1
Mahison, Bruce, Sea	76	36	47.4	501	6.59	3	3.9	47	5	6.6	54.8
Norrie, David, Jets	68	35	51.5	376	5.53	1	1.5	141	4	5.9	48.4
Christensen, Jeff, Clev	58	24	41.4	297	5.12	1	1.7	34	3	5.2	42.1
Sourer, Frank, K.C.	55	26	47.3	340	6.18	0	0.0	33	4	7.3	36.9

RECORDS

Number 105, Bob Scarfetto, Denver (1967)
Average: 46.2 yards, Dave Lewis, Cincinnati (1970)
Longest: 98 yards, Steve O'Neal, New York (1969)

	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK	OPP RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Mojstroski, Ra, S.D.	67	2875	57	42.9	12	0	37	392	15	33.5
Newsome, Harry, Pitt	64	2678	57	41.8	13	1	36	373	8	31.5
Fulhage, Scott, Cin	52	2168	58	41.7	5	0	31	216	10	35.6
Horan, Mike, Den	44	1807	61	41.1	5	2	22	166	11	33.1
Goodburn, Kelly, K.C.	59	2412	55	40.9	5	0	39	403	13	32.4
Tailey, Stan, Raiders	56	2277	63	40.7	5	1	28	207	13	34.6
Gossell, Jeff, Clev-Hou	44	1777	55	40.4	6	1	23	234	4	31.6
Camarillo, Rich, N.E.	62	2489	73	40.1	8	1	34	333	14	31.7
Rodriguez, Ruben, Sea	47	1880	63	40.0	5	0	22	182	17	34.0
Stark, Robin, Ind	61	2440	63	40.0	7	2	33	353	12	30.9
Johnson, Lee, Hou-Clev	50	1969	66	39.4	4	0	25	249	8	32.8
Kidd, John, Buff	64	2495	67	39.0	7	0	26	148	20	34.5
Jennings, Dave, Jets	64	2444	58	38.2	6	0	24	100	12	34.8

NON-QUALIFIERS (10 or more punts)

Roby Reggie Mia	32	1371	77	42.8	3	0	16	87	8	38.3
Herr ne. Aarn, NE	25	861	50	34.4	4	1	7	64	1	27.6
Giacomarro Ralph, Den	18	757	50	42.1	1	0	12	238	4	27.7
O Connor Tom, Jets	18	602	47	33.4	1	0	9	62	2	28.9
Winslow George, Clev	18	616	45	34.2	2	0	6	11	5	31.4
Partridge, Rick, Buff	18	678	52	37.7	2	1	9	31	3	31.9
Prokop Joe S D	17	654	50	38.5	1	0	6	37	1	35.1
Bruno John, Pitt	16	619	56	38.7	4	1	10	22	5	30.4
Gore, Stacy, Mia	14	502	60	35.9	0	0	4	21	6	34.4
Gamache Vince, Raiders	13	519	53	39.9	0	1	6	49	2	33.6
Kiel, Blair Ind	12	440	50	36.7	1	0	5	16	3	33.7
Griffith, Russel Sea	11	386	51	35.1	0	0	7	57	1	29.9
Walters Dale Clev	11	400	56	36.4	1	0	2	28	2	32.0
Colbert Lewis, K C	10	377	47	37.7	1	0	4	39	0	31.8

Leader based on gross average minimum 38 punts

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Dupard, Reggie, N.E.	94	318	3.4	49	3
Jennings, Stanford, Cin	70	314	4.5	18	1
Elway, John, Den	86	304	4.6	29	4
Lang, Gene, Den	89	303	3.4	28	2
Brooks, James, Cin	94	290	3.1	18	1
Hampton, Lorenzo, Mia	75	289	3.9	34	1
Byrum, Carl, Buff	66	280	4.2	30	0
Anderson, Gary, S.D.	80	260	3.3	25	3
Vick, Roger, Jets	77	257	3.3	14	1
Tallup, Mose, N.E.	79	248	3.1	19	0
Banks, Chuck, Ind	50	245	4.9	35	0
Esiason, Boomer, Cin	52	241	4.6	19	0

continued



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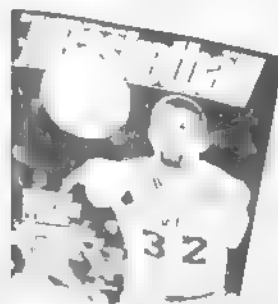
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AFC Statistics

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD		ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jackson, Andrew Hou	60	232	3.9	116	1	Driver, Stacey Clev	9	31	3.4	16	0
Spencer, Tim S.D.	73	228	3.1	16	0	Kiel, Blair Ind	4	30	7.5	16	0
Riddick, Robb Buff	59	221	3.7	25	5	Tinnar, Spencer Hou	12	29	2.4	13	1
Mason, Larry, Clev	56	207	3.7	22	2	King, Bruce Buff	9	28	3.1	8	0
Johnson, Bill, Cin	39	205	5.3	20	1	Bono, Steve Pitt	8	27	3.4	23	1
Logan, Marc, Cin	37	203	5.5	51	1	Eason, Tony, N.E.	3	25	8.3	18	0
Scott, Ronald, Mia	47	199	4.2	24	3	Williams, Leonard Buff	9	25	2.8	9	0
Perryman, Bob N.E.	41	187	4.6	48	0	Hawkins, Frank, Raiders	4	24	6.0	7	0
Porter, Ricky Buff	47	177	3.8	13	0	Spencer, Todd, S.D.	14	24	1.7	5	0
Mueller, Vance Raiders	37	175	4.7	35	1	Cobbie, Eric Hou	9	23	2.6	12	0
LaBanc, Michael, N.E.	49	170	3.5	42	1	McSwain, Chuck, N.E.	9	23	2.6	9	0
Malone, Mark, Pitt	34	162	4.8	142	3	Chincio, John, Jets	12	22	1.8	4	1
Krieg, Dave, Sea	35	155	4.3	17	2	Kosar, Bernie Clev	15	22	1.5	7	1
Palmer, Paul, K.C.	24	155	6.5	35	0	Moore, Ricky, Hou	7	22	3.1	11	0
Dudek, Joe, Den	35	154	4.4	16	2	Blackledge, Todd, K.C.	5	21	4.2	11	0
Parker, Robert, K.C.	47	150	3.2	10	1	Collier, Reggie, Pitt	4	20	5.0	12	0
Pinkell, Allen, Hou	31	149	4.8	22	2	Nathan, Tony, Mia	4	20	5.0	8	0
Evans, Vince Raiders	11	144	13.1	24	1	Woods, Carl, N.E.	4	20	5.0	13	1
Hunter, Herman, Hou	34	144	4.2	21	0	Meenan, Greg, Cin	4	19	4.8	17	0
Whittle, Gera d, Den	26	141	5.4	29	0	Breen, Adrian, Cin	6	18	3.0	9	0
Ellis, Craig, Raiders	33	138	4.2	14	2	Jensen, Jim, Mia	4	18	4.5	9	0
Stone, Dwight, Pitt	17	135	7.9	51	0	Smith, Steve, Raiders	5	18	3.8	15	0
Kelly, Jim, Buff	29	133	4.6	24	0	Bennett, Ben, Cin	2	17	8.5	9	0
Bergen, Dennis, Jets	31	128	4.1	5	1	Harris, Leonard, Hou	1	17	17.0	17	0
Poole, Nathan, Den	28	126	4.5	15	1	Holland, Jamie, S.D.	1	17	17.0	17	0
Manoa, Tim, Clev	23	116	5.0	35	0	Kelly, Mike, S.D.	4	17	4.3	10	0
Davenport, Ron, Mia	32	114	3.6	27	0	McNeil, Gerald, Clev	1	17	17.0	17	0
Smith, Chris, K.C.	26	114	4.4	11	0	Goodburn, Kelly, K.C.	1	16	16.0	16	0
Moon, Warren, Hou	34	112	3.3	20	3	Newsome, Harry, Pitt	2	16	8.0	16	0
Strachan, Steve, Raiders	28	108	3.9	20	0	Pippens, Woodie, K.C.	3	16	5.3	11	0
Morarty, Larry, K.C.	30	107	3.6	11	0	Mathison, Bruce, Sea	5	15	3.0	10	0
Bennett, Woody, Mia	25	102	4.1	18	0	Moore, Alvin, Del.	3	15	5.0	13	0
James, Lionel, S.D.	27	102	3.8	115	2	Nalt, Ricky, Den	2	13	6.5	10	0
Wallace, Ray, Hou	19	102	5.4	19	0	Partridge, Rick, Buff	1	13	13.0	13	0
Mackey, Kyle, Mia	17	98	5.8	17	2	Starrin, Stephen, N.E.	2	13	6.5	10	0
Everett, Major, Clev	34	95	2.8	16	0	Cate, Rodney, Pitt	5	12	2.4	4	0
Horton, Elhan, Raiders	31	95	3.1	14	0	Totten, Willie, Buff	12	11	0.9	7	0
McCuskey, David, Cin	29	94	3.2	12	1	Williams, Alphonso, S.D.	1	11	11.0	11	0
Wilson, Marc, Raiders	17	91	5.4	16	0	James, Craig, N.E.	4	10	2.5	5	0
Jenkins, Keyvan, S.D.	22	88	4.0	9	0	Polk, Pete, Mia	3	10	3.3	9	0
Brown, Gordon, Ind.	19	85	4.5	118	1	Valentine, Ira, Hou	5	10	2.0	4	0
Sewell, Steve, Den	19	83	4.4	17	2						
Green, Boyce, Sea	21	77	3.7	17	0						
Ramsey, Tom, N.E.	13	75	5.8	19	1						
Middleton, Frank, S.D.	28	74	2.6	21	1						
Wright, Dana, Cin	24	74	3.1	10	0						
Morris, Randall, Sea	21	71	3.4	13	0						
Wonsley, George, Ind	18	71	3.9	12	1						
Walter, Dave, Cin	16	70	4.4	16	0						
Sanders, Chuck, Pitt	11	65	5.9	14	1						
O'Brien, Ken, Jets	30	61	2.0	11	0						
Rice, Dan, Cin	18	59	3.3	8	0						
McLemore, Chris, Ind	17	58	3.4	9	0						
Bailey, Clarence, Mia	10	55	5.5	13	0						
Caldwell, Scott, Den	16	53	3.3	7	0						
Fryar, Kevin, N.E.	9	52	5.8	16	0						
Morton, Michael, Sea	19	52	2.7	10	1						
Sartin, Martin, S.D.	19	52	2.7	10	1						
Harrison, Rob, Raiders	9	49	5.4	13	0						
Lacy, Kenneth, K.C.	14	49	3.5	17	0						
Konecny, Mark, Mia	6	46	7.7	18	0						
Tagliarelli, John, Mia	13	45	3.5	7	1						
Hansen, Bruce, N.E.	16	44	2.8	7	0						
Bel, Ken, Den	13	43	3.3	11	0						
Davis, Elgin, N.E.	9	43	4.8	27	0						
Faola, Nuu, Jets	14	43	3.1	18	2						
Fulite, Doug, N.E.	6	43	7.2	13	0						
Shepherd, Johnny, Buff	12	42	3.5	19	0						
Christensen, Jeff, Clev	11	41	3.7	15	0						
Isom, Ricky, Mia	9	41	4.6	8	1						
Neuhersel, Rick, S.D.	6	41	6.8	18	1						
Lane, Eric, Sea	13	40	3.1	7	0						
Gogan, Steve, N.E.	20	37	1.9	8	2						
Burse, Tony, Sea	7	36	5.1	16	0						
Calhoun, Rick, Raiders	7	36	5.1	18	0						
Redden, Barry, S.D.	11	36	3.3	7	0						
Fontenot, Herman, Clev	15	33	2.2	14	0						
Largen, Steve, Sea	2	33	16.5	21	0						
Pease, Brent, Hou	15	33	2.2	8	1						
Seurer, Frank, K.C.	9	33	3.7	11	0						
Paros, Rick, Sea	13	32	2.5	7	1						

PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS

Receptions: 101, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1964)

Yards: 1,746, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1961)

TDs: 18, Mark Clayton, Miami (1984)

5 or more receptions	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Toon, Al, Jets	68	976	14.4	158	5
Largent, Steve, Sea	58	912	15.7	55	8
Reed, Andre, Buff	57	752	13.2	40	5
Burkett, Chris, Buff	56	765	13.7	47	4
Harmon, Ronnie, Buff	56	477	8.5	42	2
Carson, Carlos, K.C.	55	1044	19.0	181	7
Givins, Ernest, Hou	53	933	17.6	183	6
Winstow, Kellen, S.D.	53	519	9.8	30	3
Byrne, Earnest, Clev	52	552	10.6	37	2
Brooks, B., Ind	51	722	14.2	152	3
Allen, Marcus, Raiders	51	410	8.0	39	0
Hill, Drew, Hou	49	989	20.2	152	6
Sradford, Troy, Mia	48	457	9.5	34	1
Slaughter, Webster, Clev	47	806	17.1	154	7
Christensen, Todd, Raiders	47	663	14.1	33	2
Anderson, Gary, S.D.	47	503	10.7	38	2
Clayton, Mark, Mia	46	776	16.9	43	7
Brown, Eddie, Cin	44	608	13.8	147	8
Collins, Tony, N.E.	44	347	7.9	29	3
Purge, Stephane, K.C.	43	707	16.4	51	4
Brennan, Brian, Clev	43	607	14.1	153	6
Shuler, Mickey, Jets	43	434	10.1	132	3
Johnson, Vance, Den	42	684	16.3	159	7
Bouza, Matt, Ind	42	569	13.5	144	4
Lotton, James, Raiders	41	880	21.5	49	5
James, Lionel, S.D.	41	593	14.5	46	3
Stalworth, John, Pitt	41	521	12.7	45	2
Morgan, Stanley, N.E.	40	672	16.8	45	3
Chandler, Wes, S.D.	39	617	15.8	27	2
Williams, John L, Sea	38	420	11.1	175	3
Jennings, Stanford, Cin	35	277	7.9	24	2
Bentley, Albert, Ind	34	447	13.1	172	2

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Nesome, Ozzie, Clev.	34	375	11.0	25	0
Duper, Mark, Mia.	33	597	18.1	59	8
Buller, Raymond, Sea.	33	465	14.1	40	5
Hector, Johnny, Jets	32	249	7.8	27	0
Mack, Kevin, Clev.	32	223	7.0	17	1
Nattiel, Ricky, Den.	31	630	20.3	54	2
Collinsworth, Cris, Cin.	31	494	15.9	53	0
Fryar, Irving, N.E.	31	467	15.1	40	5
Kay, Clarence, Den.	31	440	14.2	30	0
Holman, Rodney, Cin.	28	438	15.6	61	2
Hardy, Bruce, Mia.	28	292	10.4	31	2
Metzelaars, Pete, Buff.	28	290	10.4	34	0
Beach, Pat, Ind.	28	239	8.5	16	0
Davenport, Ron, Mia.	27	249	9.2	29	1
Rozier, Mike, Hou.	27	192	7.1	27	0
Jackson, Mark, Den.	26	436	16.8	52	2
Fruitt, James, Mia.	26	404	15.5	37	3
Jensen, Jim, Mia.	26	221	8.5	20	1
Jones, Cedric, N.E.	25	388	15.5	29	3
Micho, Bobby, Den.	25	242	9.7	126	2
McNeill, Freeman, Jets	24	262	10.9	57	1
Abercrombie, Walter, Pitt.	24	209	8.7	24	0
Okoye, Christian, K.C.	24	169	7.0	22	0
McGee, Tim, Cin.	23	408	17.7	49	1
Sohn, Kurt, Jets	23	261	11.3	31	2
Hampton, Lorenzo, Mia.	23	223	9.7	24	0
Brooks, James, Cin.	22	272	12.4	46	2
Williams, Dokie, Raiders	21	330	15.7	33	5
Hayes, Jonathan, K.C.	21	272	13.0	33	2
Marlin, Mike, Cin.	20	394	19.7	54	3
Murray, Walter, Ind.	20	339	17.0	43	3
Langhorne, Reggie, Clev.	20	288	14.4	25	1
Holohan, Pete, S.D.	20	239	12.0	18	0
Skansi, Paul, Sea.	19	207	10.9	25	1
Harper, Michael, Jets	18	226	12.5	135	1
Kattus, Eric, Cin.	18	217	12.1	57	2
Dickerson, Eric, Rams-Ind.	18	171	9.5	28	0
Thompson, Weegie, Pitt.	17	313	18.4	63	1
Starring, Stephen, N.E.	17	289	17.0	134	3
Warner, Curt, Sea.	17	167	9.8	130	2
Lang, Gene, Den.	17	130	7.6	29	2
Spencer, Tim, S.D.	17	123	7.2	18	0
Mobley, Orson, Den.	16	228	14.3	28	1
Sweeney, Calvin, Pitt.	16	217	13.6	34	0
Carter, Rodney, Pitt.	16	180	11.3	126	3
Jackson, Bo, Raiders	16	136	8.5	23	2
Johnson, Trumaine, Buff.	15	186	12.4	126	2
Holman, Scott, Jets	15	155	10.3	30	0
Talupo, Mosi, N.E.	15	136	9.1	23	0
Riddick, Robb, Buff.	15	96	6.4	117	3
Fernandez, Mervyn, Raiders	14	236	16.9	47	0
Teal, Jimmy, Sea.	14	198	14.1	47	2
Turner, Daryl, Sea.	14	153	10.9	120	6
Kiever, Rocky, Jets	14	152	10.9	30	0
Heard, Herman, K.C.	14	118	8.4	15	0
Tice, Mike, Sea.	14	106	7.6	27	2
Pollard, Frank, Pitt.	14	77	5.5	17	0
Winder, Sammy, Den.	14	74	5.3	13	1
Massie, Rick, Den.	13	244	18.8	139	4
Clinkscales, Joey, Pitt.	13	240	18.5	57	1
Duncan, Curtis, Hou.	13	237	18.2	48	5
Sewell, Steve, Den.	13	209	16.1	172	1
Williams, Jamie, Hou.	13	158	12.2	25	3
Vick, Roger, Jets	13	108	8.3	23	0
Williams, Alphonso, S.D.	12	247	20.6	57	1
Kemp, Perry, Clev.	12	224	18.7	34	2
Lee, Danzell, Pitt.	12	124	10.3	24	0
Tagliareri, John, Mia.	12	117	9.8	27	0
Dawson, Lin, N.E.	12	81	6.8	14	0
Watson, Steve, Den.	11	167	15.2	49	1
Williams, Oliver, Hou.	11	165	15.0	136	1
Lipps, Louis, Pitt.	11	164	14.9	27	0
Linne, Larry, N.E.	11	158	14.4	30	2
Weathers, Clarence, Clev.	11	153	13.9	137	2
Drewrey, Willie, Hou.	11	148	13.5	35	0
Muelier, Vance, Raiders	11	95	8.6	14	0
Bligen, Dennis, Jets	11	81	7.4	19	0
Harris, Leonard, Hou.	10	164	16.4	39	0
Marshall, Henry, K.C.	10	126	12.6	19	0
Noble, James, Ind.	10	78	7.8	118	2
Nathan, Tony, Mia.	10	77	7.7	14	0

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